

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Old Town Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 345-778 Old Post Road, 16 Draper, (cont'd) N/A not for publication

city, town North Attleborough N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Bristol code 005 zip code _____

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>59</u>	<u>41</u> buildings
<u>4</u>	_____ sites
<u>3</u>	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
_____	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

Old Town Historic District

Item 2, (cont'd)

8-c.30 Mount Hope Street, 10-49 Linden Avenue; Stagecoach Road.

Item 6 (cont'd)

Transportation - road bridge
Industry- mill, dam and races, mill sites
Defense - powderhouse, training field

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic-farmsteads
Religious-church, church sites
Agriculture - outbuildings, farmland
Commerce - tavern, tavern site,
Education - school (cont'd on Sheet 2-1)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic- residences
Agriculture- outbuildings, farmland
Religious - church, school
Industry, Commerce, Transportation

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial- New England, Georgian;
Federal; Greek Revival; Italianate;
Queen Anne; Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone-granite, felsite; Brick
walls Wood-weatherboard, shingle; Brick

roof Asphalt shingle on wood

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Old Town Historic District, North Attleborough, MA.

Item 7

Condition: Excellent, good, ruins; unaltered, altered; original sites.

The Old Town Historic District is a formerly rural, now suburban, neighborhood where the patterns of buildings and landscape preserve the salient features of nearly three centuries of history from the original colonial settlement with its central cluster of community buildings and periphery of farmsteads to the early 20th century suburban blend of residential, agricultural and industrial activities.

Located on Old Post Road where it leaves Attleboro and enters the southwest corner of North Attleborough, Old Town contains thirty-one houses, twenty four outbuildings, a church, a powderhouse, a former schoolhouse, a factory, a family burying ground, a stone bridge, a dam, and numerous domestic, religious, commercial and industrial archeological sites on approximately 135 acres of land, all significant features in the district's historical development. The district consists of the linear settlement that grew up along the mile-and-a-quarter stretch of Old Post Road and its intersecting roads north of Red Rock Hill. Old Post Road, Allen Avenue, Mount Hope Street, Linden/Rocklawn Avenue and Draper Avenue date from the colonial period and the first three probably had their origins in footpaths established by Native Americans. The Seven Mile River, fed by a pair of tributary streams, runs through a shallow wooded valley on the west side of the district and, after passing through a former mill and ice pond, flows into Luther Reservoir (c. 1950) on the district's southern edge. With the exception of a small hilly ridge (part of the Red Rock Hill formation) on the north side of Mount Hope Street, the topography is typified by gently rolling terrain. Excepting the house lots which line the road, most of it is still pasture and field though some of the outskirts has reverted to woodland.

Historically and visually the center of town is at the intersection of Old Post Road and Mount Hope Street where the First Congregational Church, an ornate Federal meetinghouse built by a local carpenter, Ezra Walker, stands as the district's chief landmark. Facing the church across the intersection is another prominent work of architecture, the Captain John Stearns House, a two-and-a-half story, center-chimney Georgian house with a one-story ell terminating in a one-room cell that appears to have been a freestanding structure in the early 18th century. Between these two buildings wide expanses of roadside lawn preserve a portion of the militia training field established in 1715 and now largely occupied by buildings.

Item 7 (cont.)

On the northeastern side of the intersection stands the Conant-Maxey House, a late-19th-century Queen Anne residence that occupies the approximate location of the 1710 meetinghouse. North of this is the former District #6 schoolhouse, a single-story, temple-style Greek Revival building; a short distance north of the school is the church parsonage, a one-and-a-half-story building also in the Greek Revival mode.

Though not visible from the road, the circular brick powderhouse is not far from the intersection, standing on the small hill east of the Conant-Maxey House.

The concentration of institutional buildings that defines the center of Old Town is augmented by the cluster of buildings around the former mill site south of the church as well as the handful of houses built during the Kentston Park development at the turn of the 20th century.

The site of the Newell mill and its successors is significant both as a landscape feature and an archeological site. A low earth and stone dam supplemented by concrete work at the forebay and spillway contains the pond; a pair of stone slab bridges carry Old Post Road over the river and the tailrace; The site of the mill buildings is largely overgrown; only the mill residence, the Robinson-Sadler House, survives from the mid-19th century industrial era. Across the road from the mill site are the three houses built by the Todd family who ran the Old Town Ice Company. They are large suburban villas nominally Colonial Revival and Queen Anne in their styling.

Kentston Park, in contrast to the high density of the subdivision platted in 1892, is sparsely occupied with large amounts of open land separating the houses on this rectangular tract of land south of Mount Hope Street between Old Post Road and Linden Avenue. The three houses that date from the period of subdivision, the Edward Perry House and the Daniel B. Rogers Houses are modestly styled with a measure of vernacular Queen Anne decoration.

On the roads leading away from the center of Old Town, the district is characterized by a landscape of dispersed farmsteads from the 18th and 19th century intermingled with late-19th and early 20th century houses on smaller lots. The architecture of the earlier buildings is rooted in the vernacular classical tradition of the Georgian, Federal and Greek Revival; in the later buildings the vernacular tradition persists alongside strains of picturesque eclecticism that reflect the popularity of the Italianate, Gothic and Queen Anne styles.

On Linden/Rocklawn Avenue the Newell-Pond House is a product of accretive building; the oldest portion of the saltbox may date from Jacob Newell's settlement on the Willetts Farm. The small barn in the rear is a rare survivor of the 18th century.

Item 7 (cont.)

On Old Post Road north of Old Town center, there are a number of houses of the same vernacular type as the Sterns House. The Titus-George-Stanley House, which is still a farm residence, is notable for its finely worked, pedimented frontispiece; a simpler example of the Federal style is the Robinson-Newell House. The Rev. Weld House is an early Georgian example that was remodeled with a Federal frontispiece with a broad elliptical fanlight. The Greek Revival is represented by the Mann-Walker House and the William H. Robinson House as well as by one-and-a-half-story cottages including the Woodcock-Eldridge House, the David Whiting House and the Sadler-Stokes House. One of the last farmhouses to be built in the district, the Robert McCartney House (c. 1895), uses this same vernacular form, but with a single-story front porch in the Queen Anne mode.

The shift away from vernacular models appears in the Gamaliel Draper House of 1885, an end-gable-roof, two-and-a-half-story structure with a blend of Italianate and traditional Greek Revival styling. The Eben and Marianna Sylvester House (by 1895) repeats the end-gable-roof orientation and displays a modest amount of Victorian Gothic surface ornamentation.

As in the southern end of the district, the streetcar-era buildings on the northern end range in size and styling. The small early 20th century subdivision of what was the northwestern corner of the Titus-George-Stanley farm contains: the Fuller House, a handsome one-and-a-half-story Shingle Style cottage; the two Bibeau Houses, two-story, end-gable-roof-houses in a simplified Queen Anne style; the former Old Town lace Works, a single-story example of mill construction with a modern front; and the William Young House, an essentially styleless vernacular building. To the south of these is the Horace Eldredge House, a large Queen Anne villa with a complex hip and gable roof and a corner tower.

With the exception of certain sites like the Newell mill site, the archeological resources of Old Town are not readily identifiable. However, in those extensive areas where ground disturbance has been minimal, Old Town has a high potential for archeological resources associated with the historic district's period of significance, especially in the colonial and Federal eras. The sites of the 1704 parsonage, the 1710 and 1728 meetinghouses, the Newell Tavern and other as-yet unidentified sites have the potential to increase the significance of the Old Town District.

Item 7 (Cont.)

Intrusions in the Old Town historic district are for the most part single-family houses inserted into the roadscape. There are sixteen of these houses, some of them occupying the sites of earlier buildings, but most of them on formerly open land. The single greatest intrusion in the district is U.S. Route I-295, which crosses Old Post Road near the north end of the district on a single-span reinforced concrete span. Construction of I-295 in the early 1970's eliminated two historic properties on the west side of Old Post Road, the former Erik Greeneestate and the William H. Robinson jewelry factory. A single building, a two-story, flat-roof, concrete-and-frame-clad office building has taken their place on the southwestern side of the highway overpass.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Exploration/settlement (A, D)

late 17th to early 19th centuries

Architecture (A & C)

18th, 19th, 20th centuries

Commerce/trade; Industry (D)

1710

c. 1764

1828

1892

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Ezra Walker; unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Old Town Historic District qualifies for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A for its significant role as a primary settlement node and subsequent religious, civic and social center in the original town of Attleborough. The district contains numerous buildings that illustrate the character of the Old Town settlement from its earliest years through its later evolution as a streetcar suburb. Elements of the district, most notably the Captain Stearns House and the First Congregational meetinghouse, possess significance under Criteria C as outstanding works of architecture. The district also contains numerous archaeological sites associated with domestic, religious, commercial and industrial buildings and activities during the period of significance. The Massachusetts Historical Commission Reconnaissance Survey indicates that the district also has a high potential for historic archaeological resources as yet unidentified. Although professional archaeological investigation of Old Town resources is slight, based on the documentary record and the absence of extensive ground disturbance, the archaeological resources of the district are considered significant under Criteria D.

Old Town Historic District, North Attleborough, Massachusetts

Item 8 Significance

The Old Town Historic District is a well-preserved rural crossroads settlement on the Old Post Road that possesses historical significance as the earliest town center in the old town of Attleborough, as well as architectural significance for its valuable examples of domestic, religious and public architecture. Established around the time of old Attleborough's incorporation (1694), Old Town is the site of several religious and public buildings important in the early history of Attleborough, including: the First Congregational Church built in 1827, the third home to the congregation established in 1710; the Town Powder House built in 1768; and the Old Town Schoolhouse which replaced an earlier schoolhouse c. 1832. The historic district also includes a large concentration of historic houses and buildings dating from the initial settlement period up to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries when the electric street railway prompted a small burst of suburban building. The integrity of the district is enhanced by the relatively large amount of farmland and woodland that helps preserve the hamlet's rural character. This open land also encompasses a number of archeological sites significant in the historical development of Old Town and the old town of Attleborough.

European settlement in the Old Town area had its origins in the Rehoboth North Purchase of 1661. This land transaction consummated by Wamsutta or Alexander of the Wampanogs and Captain Thomas Willet of the Plymouth Colony encompassed a large region bounded by the Blackstone River on the west, the Bay Line on the north, the subsequent Taunton North Purchase on the east and the existing town of Rehoboth on the south. Though the first recorded land division among the seventy-odd purchasers was in 1658, before the purchase, actual settlement in the Rehoboth North Purchase apparently followed the Plymouth Court's confirmation of the purchase in 1666. (1.)

As was customary in the era of initial colonization, the purchasers' first interest was in the natural meadows and fertile river plains. A second geographical determinant in the settlement pattern was the Bay Path or Road, a major regional route between Massachusetts Bay and Narragansett Bay that apparently had its origin in prehistoric times. John Woodcock established what may have been the first permanent European settlement in the North Purchase on the Bay Road c. 1669. Even before Daggett's hamlet was established however, lands along the Seven Mile River several miles south on the Bay Road had been allocated to Thomas Willett. In 1666, the Plymouth Court awarded Captain Willett approximately 500 acres on the Seven Mile River at "High Squisset" in recognition of his services to the purchasers. Though Willett never settled on this farm, which was but a part of his extensive holdings in the Plymouth and Narragansett regions, the selection of this land as

Old Town Historic District Item 8 (cont'd)

compensation for such a prominent figure in Plymouth affairs was the first indication of the area's future importance as a colonial center. (2)

In 1694, the North Purchase was incorporated as the town of Attleborough, at the request of the more than thirty families residing there. In the early years of township, the citizens held their meetings at the house of Daniel Shepperson and Shepperson also donated a piece of his land on the Bay Road at Red Rock Hill for the site of the town pound. (No records of the pound's exact location have been located, though mid 18th century records refer to a pound in close proximity to the meetinghouse (3)

The establishment of Attleborough's first meetinghouse confirmed the importance of the Old Town neighborhood. As early as 1685 a 100-acre parcel on the Seven Mile River near Willet's Farm was laid out as the Ministerial Lot, in anticipation of the arrival of a settled minister. The town constructed a house and laid out a farmstead on a part of the Lot in 1704-06 and, in 1710, voted to build a meetinghouse on a nearby lot on the Bay Road. This four acre lot was donated by Lt. Moses Read for public uses, which included militia training. The path to Attleborough Falls which ran across the southern end of the lot developed into the present Mount Hope Street. With completed parsonage and a meetinghouse underway, the town was finally able to attract a minister in 1711. Until 1743, when a second parish was created in the eastern side of town, this was the only church in Attleborough.(4)

At the time the meetinghouse site was selected, there was at

Old Town Historic District Item 8 (cont'd)

least one homestead in the immediate vicinity, that of Christopher Hall. It is likely that the plank-walled house recently (1986) demolished was the original Hall house.

The establishment of the church accompanied new activity on the Willett's Farm tract. The first minister, Matthew Short, purchased the farm c. 1710 and at the end of his tenure in Attleborough in 1715, he sold it in two parcels. The western portion adjoining the Bay Road went to Jacob Newell, formerly of Roxbury; the eastern portion, which is outside the district, was acquired by Samuel Tyler. Both purchasers established homesteads on their land; the Newell-Pond House appears to incorporate what may have been Newell's first house.(5)

As early as 1728, it was decided to build a second meetinghouse to replace the first. its site was "on the north side of the Pound..about 15 or 16 rods from the old meetinghouse," apparently on the west side of the Bay Road. The minister of the congregation at this time was the Reverend Habijah Weld, who established a farm of his own north of the church crossroads, where the house still stands. (6)

In 1747, Captain John Stearns of Dedham purchased the former Christopher Hall land; During his residency in the Old Town district he was to have a central role in town affairs. While living in the Hall house in 1764, Stearns purchased a one-acre lot at the southeast corner of the intersection of the Bay or Post Road and Mount Hope Street. Here he erected a large two-and-a-half-story house that was handsomely finished inside.(7) Either Stearns or Thomas Daggett, the innholder who purchased the house in 1781, installed a bar on the first floor.

Old Town Historic District Item 8 (cont'd)

Members of the farflung congregation and travelers on the Post Road must have welcomed the accommodations of an inn or tavern here. Another tavern was established by the Newell family on the east side of the Post Road just below Stearns' by the late-18th century. This large structure continued in service as Newell's Tavern well into the 19th century.

Stearns and Jacob Newell were instrumental in the creation of another public facility in the neighborhood, the town powderhouse. As a militia captain, Stearns was a member of the committee assigned to oversee construction of a magazine for the town's gunpowder. Newell provided the site for the magazine, the outcropping of red felsite on the north side of Mount Hope Street. Although Attleborough residents never had call to resort to the magazine in defense of their own town, they supported the Revolutionary cause, sending Captain Stearns as their representative to the General Court, the Provisional Congress and the State Constitutional Convention.(8)

In the decades following the Revolution, Old Town retained its character as a community center. The first District #6 schoolhouse was erected on or near the first meetinghouse site c. 1804. It was a two-story building; the Attleborough Society for the Encouragement of Agriculture, Art and Social Intercourse funded the construction of the assembly hall on the second story. This building, which became known as the Agricultural Hall, stood until the late 19th century. Its roll as schoolhouse was assumed by a new structure,(still standing)c. 1832. This schoolhouse, located just north of the first, remained in use until 1938.(9)

The First Universalist Society of Attleborough had its origins in Old Town in an assembly room in Newell's Tavern in 1816. Two years later, the Society erected a church just south of the First Congregational Church and opposite Newell's Tavern. In 1841 the main body of the Universalists relocated to North Attleborough and the church was soon after sold and moved by the Methodists.(10)

Beginning in the Federal period, Attleborough's character was increasingly influenced by the growth of manufacturing. While industrialization had its greatest effect on other Attleborough villages, Old Town had its share of industrial activities.

One of the first operations of any size was the tanyard established by Stephen Draper on the thirty-acre parcel on the Seven Mile River which he purchased c. 1772. This tanyard on what is now Draper Road was reportedly one of the largest in the country; it was torn down in 1858.(11)

Obed Robinson, one of the founders of Attleborough's great jewelry industry, purchased a quarter-acre lot on Post Road in 1788 and built the house that still occupies the site. The small size of the lot suggests that Robinson was pursuing his trade as a silversmith here rather than farming. He sold the house in 1792 and subsequently relocated to nearby Robinsonville where he established one of the town's first jewelry firms c. 1807.(12)

The principal water power site in the district was on the Seven Mile River across the Post Road from the Newell Tavern. The earliest recorded industry here is the blacksmith shop operated by Jabez Newell II in 1815; however it is possible that the

Newells had harnessed the water power at an earlier date. By 1827 a two-story machine shop replaced the blacksmith shop; the machine shop was probably supplying the region's widely proliferating textile industry. Two years later, Royal Sibley purchased the property and established cotton manufacturing here. Button-making supplanted textile manufacturing c. 1833. A succession of button makers worked here including Elisha G. May, who subsequently lived in the Stearns house, and William H. Robinson. Robinson went on to become a leading manufacturer of buttons and other jewelry in a second shop (destroyed for the construction of Route 295) just south of his house at the corner of Old Post and Draper Roads. It was in the first shop that jewelers reportedly first adapted water power to jewelry manufacturing and established one of Attleborough's first electroplating operations. After the Civil War, the property was converted to a dyehouse and bleachery. C. 1881 fire destroyed the buildings except for the Greek Revival mill operator's house. The Old Town Ice Company operated by the Todd family became the next occupant of the property, at which time the pond was used for ice rather than water power. (13)

The Eldridge Brickyard, located behind the Woodcock-Eldridge House on the east bank of the Seven Mile River, was another of the rural industrial operations located in Old Town in the mid-nineteenth century. Joseph Eldridge and his sons produced thousands of bricks here between the 1860's and 1890's. The Lonsdale Company's Ashton mill village in Cumberland (c. 1867) was constructed with Eldridge bricks. Depletion of the clay bank brought an end to the operation. (14)

A watershed in the history of Old Town, or West Attleborough as it was known by the late-nineteenth century, was the construction of the interstate electric street railway on the Post Road between North Attleborough and Pawtucket in 1892. This rail line in effect made Old Town a suburb of Pawtucket and the increasingly urban manufacturing center of North Attleborough. Over ten new houses were built in the district in the first two decades after the street cars went into service.(15)

The most immediate response to the new car line was made by Edward Kent and his brother-in-law M. Carleton Lathrop, who subdivided the Stearns and Newell land south of Mount Hope Street between Post Road and Linden Avenue in 1892. Kentston Park, as the subdivision was known, never progressed far beyond the planning stage, except for the two houses built by the Hunt family on Stagecoach Road (formerly Columbus Avenue) and the Edward Perry House at the corner of Mount Hope Street and Linden Avenue.(16)

For the most part, the district's new suburban houses were built on Old Post Road between the earlier farmhouses and cottages. Agriculture, principally dairy farming, remained a prominent feature of Old Town in the early twentieth century as local farmers found ready markets for their produce in the nearby cities. In a similar fashion the Old Town Ice Company prospered, providing ice to the urban markets.

As Old Town entered the middle decades of the twentieth century, new residential building dwindled, although a new industrial operation arose. The Old Town Lace Works, formed by Ernest Wharton and George Pepper, built their modest factory on Post

Road in 1937. This small textile operation, closer in scale to its predecessors of the early nineteenth century than its contemporaries, remained in business until 1959, when the company dissolved in the wake of a labor dispute. (18)

The automobile brought an end to the Interstate streetcar line c. 1926, when the tracks were taken up. Buses replaced the streetcars for a time, but their service was minimal. (19) Though the private automobile became the dominant transportation mode, it had relatively little impact on the physical appearance of Old Town until the construction of Route I-295 in the 1970's. Old Post Road was largely bypassed by automobile traffic in favor of Washington Street to the west.

In the past fifty years, changes in Old Town have been small in scale, consisting mostly of new single family housing, located between the historic properties. In this way, new building has created a new layer on the landscape without disturbing the older patterns that underlay it.

FOOTNOTES

1. Leonard Bliss, Jr., The History of Rehoboth (Boston, 1836), p. 67; John Daggett, A Sketch of the History of Attleborough From Its Settlement To The Division, edited and completed by Amelia Daggett Sheffield (Boston, 1894), pp. 46-50.
2. Daggett, pp. 53 ff.
3. *ibid*, p. 89.
4. *ibid*, pp. 226-230, 235.
5. Bristol County Deed Book 9, Pages 349, 707.
6. Daggett, p. 235.
7. Bristol County Deed Book 47, Pages 165, 225.
8. Daggett, pp. 119, 122-127.
9. Clayton Batchelder and J.M. Berndt, Massachusetts Historical Commission Inventory Form, "Old Town Schoolhouse", 1978; Joseph W. Capron, "Map of Attleborough," 1832.
10. Daggett, pp. 279-81.
11. Thomas W. M. Draper, The Drapers In America (New York, 1892), p. 134.
12. Bristol County Deed Book 67, Page 303; Book 71, Page 45; Daggett, p. 368.
13. Bristol County Deed Book 100, Page 17; Daggett pp. 352-3.
14. Clayton Batchelder and J.M. Berndt, Massachusetts Historical Commission Inventory Form, "549 Old Post Road," 1979.
15. Daggett, pp. 450-1.
16. Bristol County Plat Book 5, Page 58, "Subdivision of Kentston Park of Old Town, Massachusetts"; Deed Book 634, Page 347; Deed Book 537, Page 453.
17. Personal Communication, John P. Gemeinhardt to author (6/22/86); George Elliott to author (2/4/87).
18. Bristol County Deed Book 837, Page 407.
19. Personal Communication, George Elliott to author (2/4/87).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Batchelder, Clayton and J.M. Berndt, Massachusetts Historical Commission Inventory Forms, Area 4, Nos. 3,4,5,7,19,20,21,23,24,26,31,32,36,37,53. 1978.
Beers, F.W., Atlas of Bristol County, Massachusetts (New York, 1871).
Bliss, Leonard, Jr., The History of Rehoboth (Boston, 1836).
Bristol County Deed and Plat Books, Bristol County Courthouse, Taunton, MA.
Capron, Joseph, "Map of Attleborough, Massachusetts" (Boston, 1832).
Daggett, John, A Sketch of the History of Attleborough From Its Settlement To The Division, edited and completed by Amelia Daggett Sheffield (Boston, 1894).

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # see Continuation Sheet 9-1
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 155 acres

UTM References

A	19	307	2,90	46	4,7	1,0,0
	Zone	Easting		Northing		
C	19	30	65,10	46	4,5	34,0

B	19	30	6	310	46	4,7	0,2,0
	Zone	Easting		Northing			
D	19	307	6,80	46	4,5	4,0,0	

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See Continuation Sheet

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

These boundaries are drawn using lot lines and landscape features such as the Seven Mile River to incorporate the historic buildings, structures and associated landscape elements of Old Town, while excluding modern intrusions where possible.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard E. Greenwood, Historic Consultant
organization North Attleborough Historical Commission Date 11/11/88
street & number 43 South Washington Street telephone _____
city or town North Attleborough state MA zip code 02760

Old Town Historic District
Item 9 (cont'd)

Dix, Marjorie Ashworth, That Reminds of North Attleborough (North Attleborough Historical Society, 1965).

Draper, Thomas W.M., The Drapers In America (New York, 1892).

Elliott, George, Personal Communication to the author, 2/4/87.

Evert and Richards, Atlas of Bristol County, Massachusetts (Phila., 1895).

Gemeinhardt, John P., Personal Communication to the author, 6/22/86.

U.S. Geological Survey Attleboro Quadrangle, Massachusetts-Rhode Island, 7.5 Minute Series, 1949.

Walling, Henry F., "Map of Bristol County, Massachusetts" (New York, 1858).

Previous Documentation (cont'd)

North Attleboro Vicinity

Captain Stearns House, Old Post Road (1935).

Congregational Church, Old Post Road (1935, 1938).

Powder House, Mount Hope Street (1935).

Old Town Historic District

Item 10: Boundaries

Beginning at the southeasterly corner of Lot 4 (Plat 25) on Mount Hope Street, (marked Point of Origin on the boundary map), the historic district boundary proceeds in a generally northerly line following the eastern boundary lines of Lot 4 to the intersection with the rear or southeasterly lot line of Lot 12 (Plat 25); thence the district boundary runs in a generally northerly way along the rear lot lines of Lot 12 and Lot 7 (Plat 25) to the northern lot line of Lot 7; thence the district boundary runs westerly along the northern boundaries of Lot 7 and Lots 160 and 8 (plat 25) to the eastern curb of Old Post Road; thence northerly along Old Post Road to its intersection with the northern boundary of the Route I-295 right-of-way; thence easterly along the 295 right-of-way to the northern lot line of Lot 5 (Plat 25); thence westerly along the northern lot line of Lot 5 to the eastern curb of Old Post Road; thence northerly along Old Post Road to a point opposite the northeasterly corner of Lot 59 (plat 25) and in a line with Lot 59's northern lot line; thence westerly in a straight line across Old Post Road and along the northern boundary lines of Lot 59 and Lot 150 (Plat 25) to the westerly bank of the Seven Mile River. Thence southerly along the Seven Mile River to the northern lot line of Lot 54 (plat 25); thence westerly, southerly and easterly following the boundaries of Lot 54 to the western bank of the Seven Mile River; thence southerly along the Seven Mile River to its intersection with the northern right-of way of Route I-295; thence easterly along said right-of-way to its intersection with the western curb of Old Post Road; thence southerly along Old Post Road to its intersection with the southern boundary of the Route I-295 right-of-way; thence westerly along said right-of-way to its intersection with the western lot line of Lot 50 (Plat 25); thence southerly along the rear (western) lot

Old Town Historic District

Item 10 (continued)

lines of Lots 50, 48 and 62 (plat 25); thence easterly along the southern lot line of Lot 62 to its intersection with Lot 153 (plat 25); thence southerly along the rear (westerly) lot lines of Lots 153, 154 and 155 (Plat 25) to the northern lot line of Lot 43 (Plat 25); thence westerly along Lot 43 to its intersection with Lot 45 (Plat 25); thence southerly along the western boundary of Lot 45 to the northern curb of Allen Avenue; thence easterly along the line of Allen Avenue to the easterly curb of Old Post Road; thence southerly along Old Post Road to its intersection with the southern lot line of Lot 34 (Plat 25); thence easterly and northerly along the lines of Lot 34 to its northeast corner; thence in a straight line to the southeastern corner of Lot 33 (plat 25); thence northerly along the rear (easterly) lot lines of Lots 33, 32, and 31 (Plat 25); thence easterly along the rear (southerly) lot lines of Lots 88, 89, 22 and 95 (Plat 25); thence northerly in a straight line to the intersection of the southern lot line of Lot 174 (Plat 25) and the eastern curb of Linden Avenue; thence easterly, northerly and westerly along the boundaries of Lot 174 to the eastern curb of Linden Avenue; thence north along Linden Avenue to the southern curb of Mount Hope Street; thence easterly along Mount Hope Street to a point due south of the southeasterly corner of Lot 4; thence due north to the Point of Origin.

25-5 345 Old Post Road Joy/Johnson House c. 1912

This house is one of the most elaborate examples of the Queen Anne style in the Old Town district. A two-and-a-half story building with a hip and gable roof, it is basically rectangular in shape with a variety of bays, towers and gables that provide an asymmetrical, picturesque outline. The front entry is through a single-story, hip-roof, enclosed porch with modern replacement windows. On the southeast corner there is an octagonal two-story tower with a turret roof. On the south flank there is a flat semi-hexagonal single-story window bay; above it is a cross gable. The double-hung one-over-one sash windows have plain frames and slight cornice heads; in the center there is a central window with narrow windows flanking it. The house has two internal chimneys and cobblestone foundations.

In 1910 Janette Joy, wife of Charles Joy, purchased this lot of land from William R. Cobb. No buildings were mentioned in the transaction. Two years later, the Joys sold the property, including buildings, presumably this house, to William Sherman. Subsequent owners included: Adolf Johnson (reputed to be a Prohibition bootlegger), Verne Johnson, Charles Bristol and Edward Frechette. The Joy/Johnson House is the premier example at the north end of the Old Town neighborhood, of the large suburban houses built along Old Post Road during the electric streetcar era.

25-55 369 Old Post Road Reverend Habijah Weld House
(after 1729)

This is a two-and-a-half story, shingled frame, flank-gable-roof house in the traditional five-bay-wide, center entry mode, with the original center chimney replaced by a pair of internal chimneys. A Georgian house remodeled in the Federal style with a frontispiece with sidelights and a broad elliptical fanlight. The house has been restored recently with twelve-over-twelve double hung sash installed. A T-shape single story ell with an internal chimney runs off the rear.

The Reverend Habijah Weld was the third minister of the First Congregational Society, serving from 1727 until 1782. Rather than settle at the ministerial house, Weld chose to purchase a large tract of land between the seven Mile River and the Country Road (Old Post Road). This house which Weld erected was, according to accounts of the day, visited by many distinguished travelers from Boston, Providence and other parts of New England.

25-97 373 Old Post Road Frechette House (after 1949) late 20th century

This single-story, L-shaped house with a cross-gableroof with a box cornice and an external chimney is typical of post World War II residential construction in Old Town. It has a small end-gable roof vestibule on the front end gable, a small picture window and one-over-one double hung sash windows. The foundations are concrete.

This house was built by Ned Frechette, then owner of the house at 345 Old Post Road, for his daughter.

25-5 400 Old Post Road Mann/Walker House (prior to 1807 et seq.)

A two-and-a-half story, clapboard frame, flank-gable roof house in the traditional five-bay-wide, center-entry mode. The original homestead was established by Dr. Barzaleel Mann (1722-1796) but the present character of the house appears to be the work of Ezra Walker, housewright, who resided here from 1807 to 1862. Twin chimneys centered on either half of the house (only one of which remains), a cornice with a prominent frieze, corner pilasters and a front doorway with transom and sidelights in a trabeated surround are products of the Greek Revival, rather than Georgian design. A series of barns and outbuildings, including a pair of barns on the south side of the property, are now marked only by foundation ruins.

Dr. Barzaleel Mann was a prominent figure in Attleborough in the second half of the 18th century both as a physician and a community leader. Ezra Walker moved here from Rehoboth and established himself as a master carpenter. His best known work is the First Congregational Church here in Oldtown. In the early 20th century this was known as the Dr. Everett farm after another physician who was also a dairy farmer.

25-8 420 Old Post Road William H. Young House c. 1904.

The Young House is a two-story, flank gable-roof, frame dwelling that illustrated the continuity of a basic vernacular house type into the early 20th century. Three bays wide and two bays deep with a plain center entry, the house is trimmed with corner boards and boxed eaves. A single-story, hip roof porch with square posts and concrete foundations stretches the length of the facade. There is an internal off-center chimney or flue and a single story shed roof addition on the rear. This simple, unadorned, house was one of many built on the former Seneca Stanley farm in the early 20th century.

In 1904, Marianna Sylvester sold approximately three acres of the former Stanley farm to Mr. and Mrs. William H. Young, who presumably built this house shortly thereafter. The Young House was the northernmost of the five buildings erected on the former Stanley farm in the early 20th century. The House has since been subdivided from the bulk of the original three-acre lot, which is still open land, bounded on the north by I-295.

25-71 478 Old Post Road Oldtown Lace Works, early 20th century industrial

The former Oldtown Lace Works is a somewhat altered example of a relatively common type of early-20th-century industrial building. A single-story building with a broad end-gable roof, it is three bays wide and seven bays deep, with a four-bay-deep concrete block addition on the rear. The building has paired six-over-six double hung sash windows in the flanks, a simple hood over an entry in the south flank and open eaves with projecting rafter ends. The foundations are concrete. The facade was remodeled c. 1960 with large picture windows on the north, an aluminum-framed entry in the center and a loading bay with an overhead garage door on the south. The wall is covered with composition stone and vertical board siding and a corrugated fiberglass hood stretches across the facade. Aluminum block letters spelling "Keith & Keith Inc.", the present occupants, are attached to the facade.

The former Oldtown Laceworks, now occupied by manufacturers of canvas products, is the only surviving industrial building in Old Town. Though it is a relatively recent fixture in Old Town and it differs in terms of product and technology from the early waterpowered jewelry and blacksmiths shops that were located on Old Post Road in the 19th century, this small factory is significant as it illustrates the persistence of small-scale rural or suburban manufacturing in Old Town into the 20th century. The Oldtown Lace Works purchased this property and the adjoining property (494 Old Post Road) in 1937. George W. Pepper and Ernest Warton, the principals in the company, operated the laceworks for over twenty years. In 1959, the company sold the property to a realty company and dissolved the firm, reportedly as the result of a bitter strike.

25-52 481 Old Post Road Office Building c. 1975

This two-story office building with a concrete brick or block ground story and an upper story with a slight overhang, covered with diagonal plank siding exemplifies a building type and an architectural style that are essentially non-compatible with the district's historic character.

25-67 484 Old Post Road Albert Bibeau House after 1904

The Bibeau House, like its neighbor at 494 Old Post Road, is a two-story, end gable-roof house with a modest measure of irregular massing and ornamental elaboration that characterize the Queen Anne style. Three bays wide and three bays deep with a side entry, the house most likely had a front porch which was removed. The present broken pediment frontispiece and metal side rails are recent additions. The house has tow-over-tow, double hung sash windows with architrave molding. In the gable there is an ornamental window with a border of colored glass. There is a single-story semi-hexagonal bay with cobble foundations on the south flank, as well as a hip roof wall dormer. On the north flank there is a single-story hip roof vestibule. The top story of the house is covered with wood shingles; below there are clapboarded. The roof has molded eaves and there are brick foundations. The house typifies the moderately-scaled residences built in Old Town during the early 20th century.

In 1904-05, Dosithe Bibeau purchased a parcel of land with 260' frontage on Old Post Road from Mariana Sylvester, land that had formerly been part of the Seneca Stanley farm. It was presumably then or shortly thereafter that Bibeau erected the two similar houses at 484 and 494 Old Post Road. In 1921, Bibeau sold the parcel to Albert Bibeau who immediately resold the 484 Old Post Road property and the lot adjoining to the north to Albert and Eva Bonnier. Between 1926 and 1937, Ellen Darcy of Pawtucket owned the tow lots and in the latter year, sold them to the Oldtown Lace Works. The house remained the property of the Lace Works until the company was dissolved in 1959.

25-51 493 Old Post Road Obed Robinson/Jacob Newell House c. 1788.

A two-and-a-half story, shingled frame, center chimney house in the traditional five bay wide, center-entry style. The exterior ornament is concentrated in the Georgian frontispiece which has fluted pilasters supporting a pediment enriched with dentils. Interior features of note include a fireplace in the northeast parlor with architrave molding and a paneled overmantel.

Obed Robinson, the silversmith, built this house on a one quarter acre plot which he purchased in 1788. Robinson subsequently to nearby Robinsonville where he established one of the town's first jewelry firms.

25-9,10 494 Old Post Road Dosithe Bibeau House

The Bibeau House, like its neighbor at 484 Old Post Road, is a two-story, end gable-roof house with a modest measure of the irregular massing and ornamental elaboration that characterize the Queen Anne style. The house has a single-story porch across the facade, supported by square columns. A pent roof shelters two single-story bays on the south flank. The house has one-over-one double-hung sash windows with fake six-over-six muntins. There is a two-bay-wide cross gable on the south flank and, in the front gable, a single window with an ornamental border of colored glass. The roof has molded eaves and the foundations are brick. The house typifies the moderately-sized residences built in Old Town during the streetcar era.

On 1904-05, Dosithe Bibeau purchased over three acres on land, part of the former Seneca Stanley farm from Marianna Sylvester. Presumably at this time he built this house and its former northern neighbor, 484 Old Post Road. Bibeau sold the house to Albert Bibeau in 1921. The house was subsequently the property of Albert and Eva Bonnier.

25-57,58 506 Old Post Road Edward Fuller House c. 1914

The Fuller house is a handsome example of a small suburban cottage and an important representative of the architecture of the streetcar era in Old Town. This one-and-a-half-story house's appearance is dominated by a flank-gable roof that kicks out over the front porch and has a large central dormer with a turret-like roof in the front slope. The porch which runs the length of the facade supported by shingled posts, shelters a plain center entry and a broad shallow bow. The house is trimmed with a cornice and has an internal fieldstone chimney. There is a single-story, shed roof extension on the rear and a single-story hip roof projection on the end.

The Fuller House is one of a number of early 20th century houses built on the land of the former Seneca Stanley farm. Eben and Marianna Sylvester, who acquired the Stanley farm in 1897, sold this land to Edward and Eleanor Fuller in 1910. In 1914, Edward Fuller sold it back to Eben Sylvester and immediately repurchased it. The Fullers owned the house until 1951, when the current owners acquired it. The Fuller house possesses historical significance for its association with the development of Old Town as a streetcar suburb.

25-50 513 Old Post Road Eben Sylvester House c. 1880

This two-story, end-gable-roof, frame cottage is a modest example of post-Civil War Victorian eclecticism. In contrast to the vernacular classical mode which predominated in the vicinity, this house with its eaves trimmed with carved verge boards in the gables, and brackets, only two of which remain on the main roof, reflected new trends in American architecture. The house has a side entry with architrave molding, flanked by a single-story, square hip-roof bay window with scroll brackets and narrow one-over-one double-hung sash windows. The area below the windows is decorated with geometric moldings. The other windows are also one-over-one double hung sash windows with architrave trim. There is a single-story, flank-gable-roof, ell on the south flank with an enclosed shed-roof porch.

Eben Sylvester's wife, Marianna, purchased this piece of land from Michael Bellew in 1877, as well as an adjoining parcel from Abigail Newell in 1879. The Everts and Richards map of 1895 shows the house in its present location as the property of Eben Sylvester. In 1897, the Sylvesters purchased the Seneca Stanley homestead across the street and three years later, sold this house to Mary Glidden, wife of Isaac Glidden. The Sylvesters apparently used this as a farmhouse.

25-11 526 Old Post Road Titus/George/Stanley House (between 1799 and 1805)

A two-and-a-half-story, asphalt shingled-frame, flank-gable-roof house with a center chimney in the traditional five-bay-wide, center-entry mode. Architecturally, the house is notable for its fine Federal frontispiece which has a doorway and fanlight framed by fluted pilasters and a pediment enriched with moldings, a keyblock and distinctiv undulating drilled decoration. The large two-story ell on the rear with two internal chimneys was formerly extended by a smaller ell.

Peter Titus, a blacksmith from Rehoboth, was the original owner of this house; he sold it to Preston George, a butcher of Attleborough in 1805. George's son-in-law Seneca Stanley acquired the farm and expanded his holdings in the mid 19th century. The northern part of Stanley's farm was parcelled off in the early 20th century while the remainder has remained in agricultural use. The shed barn and outbuildings are mid-20th century structures that do not contribute to the significance of the historic district.

25-49 541 Old Post Road Samuel McCartney House ,early 20th century

This two-story, end-gable-roof, house is a turn-of-the-century example of the continued popularity of the Classical style boxed, molded, eaves, a frieze, corner boards and a single-story, flat roof porch supported by Roman Doric columns on the facade. The porch shelters a side entry and a pair of one-over-one double hung sash windows; both the windows and doorway are treated with architrave molding. Two bays wide and four bays deep, it has an internal chimney and a single-story, flat-roof, vestibule on the south flank.

This house would appear to have been built at about the time (1865) that Robert McCartney purchased the former Michael Bellew farm which occupied both sides of Old Post Road. This property remained part of the large farm until 1938, when the seven-acre parcel on the west side of Old Post Road was sold to the Mintel family. This parcel was subsequently subdivided, leaving this house on a small house lot. The house does not appear on the Everts & Richards map of 1895. According to longtime Old Town resident John P. Geminhardt, the house was built for Robert McCartney's son Samuel.

25-62 549 Old Post Road Woodcock/Eldridge House (after 1842, by 1850)

A one-and-a-half-story, clapboarded frame, flank-gable-roof, Greek Revival cottage in the traditional five-bay-wide, center entry style. A prominent cornice, cornerboards, and a sidelit doorway with a plain entablature are the principle elements of the external trim. The windows are six-over-six double hung sash. One of the twin interior chimneys has been removed.

Joseph Eldridge, who purchased the property from Jonathan Woodcock in 1860, operated a brick yard on the property, using the claybank located along the Seven Mile River southwest of the house. The Lonsdale Company Mill in Ashton (Cumberland) Rhode Island was built from Eldridge bricks. The operation ended in the 1890's when the clay was exhausted. Contributing outbuildings include a single-story, frame-gable roof shed now a garage and a wellhouse with iron grille and crank.

25-7 550 Old Post Road Robert McCartney House c.1895.

The Robert McCartney House is a late 19th-century vernacular farmhouse with a measure of Queen Anne decoration. A one-and-a-half-story rear ell. A shed-roof porch with a center gable decorated with wood shingles with staggered butts shelters the first story of the facade. The porch is supported by turned posts with jigsawn spandrels and is enclosed by a square-cut railing with molded hand rails and ball finials on the posts. Above the porch, two gable-roof wall dormers flank a central chimney in the front slope of the roof, which has boxed eaves. The house has one-over-one double hung sash windows; the windows in the end walls have shed hoods. The foundations are brick. The McCartney House is architecturally significant as a late example of the farmhouse building type which long characterized the Old Town area.

25-153 563 Old Post Road late 20th century

This two-story, flank gable-roof, modern dwelling has a garage in the ground story and a second story wooden deck in the rear. It is representative of contemporary residential architecture in the neighborhood.

This house occupies a small house lot between the Joseph Eldridge farm and Horace Eldridge Houses and was formerly part of the Eldredge farm. The large maple trees in front of the house are survivors from this earlier era.

25-154 575 Old Post Road Horace Eldridge House c. 1911.

This house is a good example of early 20th century suburban architecture in the Old Town neighborhood. A two-story, cross gambrel-roof, stuccoed frame house, it is five bays wide and three bays deep, with boxed eaves with small modillions. A projecting gable-roof vestibule on the east flank contains a front doorway with a wooden fan and sidelights. On the north end there is a single-story, flat-roof, enclosed porch as well. The two-over-one double hung windows are trimmed with architrave molding.

According to longtime Old Town resident John P. Gemeinhardt, Horace Eldredge built this house for his residence. The property was, at the time, a part of the homestead estate of the late Joseph Eldridge, his father. The original residence is still standing at 549 Old Post Road, but his house has since been separated from the larger tract. In 1911 Horace Eldridge and Harriet Eldridge Robinson mortgaged the property which mortgage may have financed the construction of the house.

25-43 597 Old Post Road Herbery Duxbury Landry House c. 1924

This single-story, hip-roof, frame house was built as a wetwash laundry and subsequently converted into a residence. Herbert Duxbury was an employee of the Old Town Ice Company early in the 20th century, at which time he lived on the James Todd Farm on Mount Hope Street. After leaving the ice business he established this laundry with his wife, Belle.

25-79 605 Old Post Road Herbery Duxbury House c. 1924.

This L-shaped, single-story, end-gable roof frame house with rubblestone foundations is a modest example of essentially styleless vernacular building. Herbert Duxbury was employed in the early 20th century as a driver for the Old Town Ice Company and lived on the James Todd Farm. After leaving the Ice Company, he moved to this spot on Old Post Road where he built this house and the building next door, which was originally a wetwash laundry. His wife Belle was presumably his partner in the enterprise.

25-75 610 Old Post Road John P. Gemeinhardt House c. 1938

This house, having a one-and-a-half story, flank-gable-roof house with a rubblestone center chimney and single-story hip-roof wings on either end, is a mid-20th century representative of the traditional vernacular cottage. While the house was built by John P. Gemeinhardt, his father John L. Gemeinhardt, a German immigrant, was responsible for the chicken coop and the other, similarly-built, outbuildings are distinctive examples of vernacular construction.

In 1872, Thomas D. Sadler sold to Charles Rohrbach, jeweller, a parcel of land on the "old road from Attleborough to Pawtucket near the Stone Bridge." The house that Rohrbach purchased was depicted on the 1858 map of Attleborough as one of two houses owned by Sadler and it may also have been the house in this location that appears on Capron's 1832 map of the town. In 1924 John L. Gemeinhardt acquired the property and his son, John P. Gemeinhardt, subsequently tore down the house because of its deteriorated condition. The Gemeinhardts residence here in the 1920's and 1930's typified the composite rural-suburban nature of Old Town; while the elder Gemeinhardt commuted by streetcar to his job as a braid mill superintendent in Pawtucket, his son worked on the McCartney dairy farm next door.

25-13 624 Old Post Road Mid-20th century

This one-and-a-third-story, L-shaped, gable-roofed house with concrete foundations is basically styleless. An external chimney on the west end and six-over-one windows with architrave trim constitute the major exterior details.

25-15 632 Old Post Road First Congregational Church Parsonage
(1844-50)

A one-and-a-half-story clapboard-clad roof house, three bays wide with a side entry. This Greek Revival building has a prominent cornice, cornerboard pilasters and a sidelit doorway with a trabeated surround. A single-story on the rear has been altered; the gable roof dormers on either slope of the roof are later additions. The completion of this parsonage in May 1850 was the culmination of five years of planning by the First Congregational Society. It has been in constant service since then as the home of the Society's pastor.

A non-contributing single-story, frame, end-gable-roof garage in the rear of the property stands in the place of the original barn which was demolished in the 1950's

25- 633 Old Post Road 1988.

A one-and-a-half story,clapboarded frame house on an L-shaped plan with a cross-gable roof. This house which is set back from the road on a raised concrete basement garage, occupies the same location as the Christopher Hall House (by 1710) which was destroyed in 1986. Non-contributing.

Barn Late 19th century

a one-and-a-half story,clapboarded frame, end-gable-roof barn on rubblestone foundations. It was associated with the former Christopher Hall homestead. Contributing.

25- 639 Old Post Road 1988.

A two-and-a-half story,clapboarded frame, flank-gable-roof, Georgian Revival house on a concrete foundation. Non-contributing.

25- 649 Old Post Road M. Carlton & Clara Lathrop House c.
1902

The Lathrop House is a large, simply-styled, suburban house much like the other large houses built on Old Post Road at the turn of the century. Two stories high with a flank-gable roof and five bays wide, it has pedimented gables and a semi-hexagonal bay on the south end. The one-over-one double hung windows are arranged in pairs and the center entry has a modern Georgian frontispiece. There is a single-story, shed roof ell on the southwest corner.

In 1902, Mrs. Abbie Kent sold this parcel of land adjoining her homestead to her daughter Clara and her son-in-law M. Carlton Lathrop. Carleton Lathrop, in partnership with his brother-in-law Edwin Kent, was responsible for laying out the plat of Kentson Park on the former Elisha G. May farm east of Old Post Road. Edwin Kent at the time was a Providence realtor.

The Kentson Park subdivision was not developed beyond the building of three houses. This house remained the property of Clara Kent Lathrop until 1951.

25-134 652 Old Post Road Late 20th century

This two-story, flank-gable-roof, "garrison colonial" house is representative of post-World War II residential construction in Old Town. The house has a center entry with sidelights and a single-story wing that connects the house with the garage.

25- 653 Old Post Road 1988

A two-and-a-half-story, clapboarded frame, flank-gable-roof, "garrison colonial" house on concrete foundations. Non-contributing.

25-16 664 Old Post Road Late 20th century

This single-story, L-shaped, gable-roof ranch house has a glassed-in-passageway connecting the house with the garage. It is typical of post-World War II residential construction in Old Town.

25-17 Old Town Schoolhouse District #6 School (after 1832)

A single-story, clapboarded frame, end-gable roof building in the vernacular Greek Revival temple style with a pair of side entries and a square tower with a louered belfry. A simple but prominent cornice, repeated over the doorways, and cornerboard pilasters are other exterior features. The windows have six-over-six, double-hung sash, except in the center of the facade, where the original window was replaced by a pair of smaller sash, covered by shutters in the early 20th century.

The District #6 school was established c. 1804 in a two-story building south of this site, while the schoolhouse was still used as such in 1832, the present schoolhouse must have been erected by the mid-19th century. It was in service until 1938. It presently houses the First Congregational Church Sunday School.

25-84 68³ Old Post Road Conant-Maxcy House (c. 1891)

A two-story frame end-gable-roof house in the Queen Anne style, three bays wide with a side entry under a single story veranda. Novelty shingling in the gable, gable trim, and decorative barge boards trim the exterior. On the south flank of the house, there is a single-story wing with a flat roof and a decorative parapet railing.

The Conant-Maxey House occupies a portion of the two-acre lot donated to the town c. 1712. The first two meetinghouses and first school occupied some part of the two-acre lot though exact locations are not known. This house was apparently built by John Conant c. 1891; his wife operated the local post office out of the front porch until c. 1910. It subsequently became the Maxey family residence. A one-and-a-half story barn with a flank-gable roof, vertical siding and a pair of double doors stands north of the house and contributes to the significance of the historic district.

25-18 692 Old Post Road Captain John Stearns House (c. 1680; c. 1802; and c. 1747-1764.)

A two-and-a-half-story, shingled frame house with a flank-gable roof, center chimney in the Georgian Style with a traditional five-bay-wide center entry plan. On the exterior, the pedimented doorway is the principal decoration while the interior is ornately finished and restored. Full-length fluted pilasters frame the paneled walls in the northwest parlor. The southwest parlor has featherboard wainscotting and the front stairhall is finished with a heavy bolection molding, a short spindle railing and tiger maple stairs. The twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash windows are reproduction based on the original windows. On the southeast corner is an 1802 single-story flank-gable structure, three bays wide with an off-center entry. This plank-walled single room cell with a fireplace in the northwest corner appears to have originally been a free-standing building that predates the main part of the house (c. 1690).

Captain John Stearns moved from Dedham to Attleborough c. 1745. a blacksmith by trade, he was a major figure in town affairs, serving in the militia, the General Court Provincial Congress. Thomas Daggett, an innholder, purchased the house in 1781 and presumably maintained and in here. A bar remained in the southeast room. The property was subsequently owned by the Newell and the Kent families.

25-40 Old Post Road at intersection of Mt. Hope St. First congregational Church (1828, Ezra Walker, architect/builder)

A two-story ,clapboarded frame meetinghouse with an end-gable roof crowned by a three-tiered tower with the belfry in the middle tier and an octagonal cupola on top. A handsome example of the local Federal style, the church facade has a shallow pedimented pavilion, slightly lower than the main pedimented gable, that contains twin entries in classical enframements. Above the entries, a pair of large twelve-over-twelve windows topped with wooden fans flank a fifteen-foot-high window with a similar wooden fan. The pavilion pediment contains a lunette as well.

The main body of the meetinghouse, the pavilion and the tower are trimmed with quoining, enriched cornices and ,in the upper two tiers of the tower with pilasters. The flanks of the church each have eight seven-foot-high windows with twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash and wooden fans lighting the main assembly room on the second story. The chancel and pulpit (which was lowered c. 1885) are located at the front (east) end of the church. Galleries run along the sides of the church and at the west end is the organ loft which contains the c. 1830 Stevens "tracker action" organ. Aside from the change to the pulpit , the principle alteration to the church have been the addition of the basement in 1911 and the kitchen in 1948,also in the basement.

This is the third home of the First Congregational Society,the first church established in the old town of Attleborough. Two earlier church buildings of 1710 and 1728 were apparently located just east of these buildings on the opposite side of Old Post Road. On the north side of the church is a historic single-story,frame,shed-roofed,wagon shed, the sole remaining portion of a larger structure.

25-33 742 Old Post Road Henry Todd House (c. 1903)

A two-and-a-half-story clapboarded and shingled frame house with an end gable roof and an octagonal two-story corner turret with a conical roof. A building with a picturesque asymmetry of the Queen Anne and classically inspired surface details of the Colonial Revival, the house was designed and built by William Todd and William and Emerson Perry. One of the three houses built for the children of William Todd, proprietor of the Old Town Ice Company, the Henry Todd house closely resembles its neighbor to the south, the George Todd House. Contributing outbuildings include a frame barn, originally used for the ice company horses, a shed that housed the ice trucks and a former milk room for the Todd dairy cattle.

25-36,37,64 Opposite 742 Old Post Road Newell Blacksmith Shop Site (by 1815 et seq.)

A low earth and rubblestone dam with a forebay and spillway supplemented by early 20th century concrete contains the Seven Mile River in the former mill and ice pond. The sites of the blacksmith shop and the successor cotton mill, jewelry shops and ice houses are largely overgrown. No archeological testing had been done here beyond surface collecting by avocational archeologists.

25- Old Post Road Quinn Morris House (by 1858)

The Quinn-Morris House is a two-story, flank-gable-roof, house with an enclosed, single-story, shed-roof porch on the east flank. The house is three bays wide with a blank center bay on the second story and it is two bays deep. The windows have two-over-two double-hung sashes. There is an internal off-center brick chimney or flue. The house has undergone changes, particularly inside, but its plain vernacular exterior is largely unaltered. This is the sole example in Old Town of this essentially style-less mid-19th century house type. The first map to record a house in this location is the Walling map of 1858 which shows the J. Quinn residence. Mrs. Quinn is recorded as the owner on the Beers map of 1871. Little information has been found on the Quinns, who appear to be the first Irish residents of Old Town. In 1895, F. Keron is listed as the occupant according to the Everts and Richards Atlas. In the early 20th century, this was the Charles Morris residence. Morris was the teamster for the Todd ice business and the company's horses were stabled in the rear of the property. Morris subsequently went into the ice business on his own after the Todds closed their operation. He was the first to sell manufactured ice (as opposed to pond ice) in North Attleborough.

25-34 778 Old Post Road George and Annie Todd House c. 1905
This Todd house is one of several large Queen Anne houses built in Old Town at the turn of the century. A two-and-a-half-story structure, it has an end gable roof with shallow cross gables on the north and south and a pent roof across the third floor. The gable is covered with novelty shingles and has a Palladian window. On the northeast corner of the house there is an octagonal two-story tower covered with imbricated shingles and crowned by a pyramidal roof with finial. A hip roof porch supported by Roman Doric columns stretches across the facade and terminates in an octagonal porch with a roof crowned by a finial on the northwest corner. The central entry and the two-over-one double-hung windows are trimmed with architrave molding. The house with its irregular silhouette dominated by the large and small octagonal roofs is nearly identical to the Todd house on the north side of the river, which suggests that they may both have been designed by Miss Anna S. Perry.

George Todd, one of the members of the Todd family which operated the Old Town Ice Company on the pond west of the house, acquired this piece of land, along with a 1/6 interest in the icehouse property from Gamaliel B. Draper in 1913. In 1915 his wife took title to the property, which then included buildings, presumably this house. This house and the Henry Todd House, built a year or so before, stand on opposite sides of the Seven Mile River, facing the pond that was formerly at the center of the family business. The house remained in the Todd family until 1942.

25- Old Post Road at the Seven Mile River Bridge

This bridge (or bridges) over the Seven Mile River is a relatively rare survival of a granite slab bridge on a well traveled road. This simple type of bridge was commonly used in the 18th and 19th centuries for spanning small waterways. No known date has been assigned to the structure, though it may be the "Stone Bridge" referred to in an 1872 deed for a nearby property. The structure actually consists of two bridges, essentially identical, that carry Old Post Road over the river's two channels (former mill races). An earth bank, approximately fifty feet wide, separates the two waterways. Each bridge is composed of two spans supported by abutments and a center pier of rubble masonry. Each span is comprised of roughly-quarried granite slabs, approximately 6' long and 1.5' to 2' wide, arranged in thirteen parallel rows. A modern roadbed is laid on top of the slabs and there are low concrete side walls. The northern bridge is mounted with steel traffic barriers set in the concrete.

25-156 700 Old Post Road

This single-story L-shaped, cross-gable-roof house is typical of the post World War II residential construction in the Old Town neighborhood. It sits on concrete foundations and has a bow window on the south flank. Non-contributing.

25-38 709 Old Post Road Robinson-Sadler House (by 1847)

A one-and-a-half-story, clapboard-clad, house in the traditional five-bay-wide, center entry mode with Greek Revival styling. A prominent cornice with a high entablature, channeled cornerboard pilasters, a watertable and a Doric frontispiece are the principal architectural features. A set-back single-story wing on the south end has a shed roof porch with turned posts and a side entry with a transom. The six-over-six double hung windows have cornice moldings on the main block of the house. This house was erected and long served as the residence associated with the Robinson button shop on the former Newell mill privilege immediately to the south.

25-31 726 Old Post Road Non-contributing.

This lot is the site of Newell's Tavern and should be considered significant for its archeological potential. Newell's Tavern was torn down in the late 1940's or 1950's.

25-38 732 Old Post Road James Adams House

One of several large suburban houses built in Old Town at the turn of the century, this two-and-a-half story house has a hip roof and a central gable-roofed front pavillion with a semi-hexagonal bay that contains the center entry. The gable peak contains an elliptical window with tracery and four key blocks in the architrave molding. The two-tier front porch stretches across the facade, following the projection of the pavilion. It is supported by Roman Doric columns and has a railing with turned spindles and posts with ball finials. The main roof has deep eaves and a hip-roof dormer on either flank. The one-over-one windows include paired windows on the second story and, in the first story parlor, diamond lozenge panes in the upper sashes.

This house was built during a small construction boom in Old Town that was occasioned by the construction of the street car line down Old Post Road in 1892. According to lifelong Old Town resident, George Elliot, this house, with its two neighbors to the south, were built by James Todd for his children.

DRAPER AVENUE

25-61 16 Draper Avenue W.H. Robinson House c. 1840

This is a good example of the traditional two-story, five-bay, center entry house designed in the Greek Revival style. The building is trimmed with cornerboards treated like Doric pilasters and the six-over-six double-hung sash windows have cornice heads. The front entry has full-length sidelights framed by pilasters and an entablature. The flank gable roof has an internal chimney at either end. One the south end of the house is a set-back ell, two stories high, but lower than the main-block, with a plainly-framed side entry.

W.H. Robinson commenced manufacturing jewelry in Old Town c. 1837, in a shop on the east bank of the Seven-Mile River just south of this house. The house and factory were taken over by D.H. Robinson by 1895.

25- Mann Family Cemetery Earliest death date c. 1778. Most recent death date 1808.

The Mann Family cemetery appears to have been established in conjunction with homestead of Dr. Bezaleel Mann on Old Post Road at the east end of Draper Road. At some point, presumably in the early 20th century, the cemetery was covered with cement and enclosed by a rubblestone wall capped with slate, approximately 25 feet square and three feet high. Since then, vandals or thieves have broken off six stones at their bases and removed them. De. Herbert Mann, who has a memorial stone here perished in the wreck of the brig General Arnold in Plymouth Harbor in 1778. There were approximately nine gravestones in this cemetery.

25-54 57 Draper Avenue Gamaliel Draper House c. 1885

The G.B. Draper House is a good example in the Old Town neighborhood of a late 19th century farmhouse. A two-and-a-half-story, T-shaped building with a cross-gable roof, it is an example of the eclectic melding of Italianate features with elements of the vernacular classical tradition. The house is trimmed with cornerboards, a frieze, raked in the gables, paired scroll brackets and cornice heads over the two-over-two double-hung sash. A single-story hip-roof porch supported by square Doric columns and trimmed with modillions and paired brackets stretches across the front gable and east flank of the house. There is also a square, two-story hip-roof bay on the east flank and two internal chimneys.

In 1860, Gamaliel B. Draper purchased the farm of the late Ebenezer Draper, the second, from Ebenezer's heirs. Ebenezer, a tanner, had been residing on this spot by the time of Capron's 1832 survey of Attleborough. Gamaliel appears to have replaced the existing farmhouse with the present structure some time after his purchase. Draper apparently devoted his energies to

farming, though he was involved in the Old Town Ice Company for a time at the turn of the century. The farm subsequently passed into the hands of George Draper and then Fred Draper, before the family sold it in 1925.

according to "The Drapers in America", Gamaliel's grandfather Stephen was the first member of the family to reside here, after acquiring 30 acres in 1772. He established a tannery here, which was at the time one of the largest in the country. He also wove cloth and had nail-making machinery in operation here. While Stephen's son Ebenezer continued the tannery, Ebenezer's son Gamaliel with two of his brothers traveled to California where they spent many years in the gold mines. Gamaliel returned to settle on his father's estate in 1858, when he tore down the tannery buildings. He replaced the house with the present building in 1885. Gamaliel was a prominent North Attleborough citizen, serving as one of the first Selectmen in 1887, as well as filling the posts of Assessor and Overseer of the Poor.

MOUNT HOPE STREET

25- 8 Mount Hope Street Sadler-Stokes House mid 19th century, remodeled 1926.

The Sadler-Stokes House is a one-and-a-half-story, flank-gambrel-roof house with long shed-roof dormers on either flank of the roof. The house presently is largely the product of the c. 1926 remodeling in a vernacular style influenced by the Dutch Colonial Revival. The roof has boxed, molded eaves with a frieze raked in the gables; at the first story level there is a simple box cornice with partial returns. Plain corner boards and the cornice window heads over the windows in the east end seem to be the only elements of the original exterior trim that have survived. The two-over-one double hung sash windows are paired in the four-bay-wide facade. The entry is on the west end, through a single-story shed roof wing with a screened porch. There is a central chimney/flue and rubblestone foundation. The house is significant as a representative of vernacular building and changing tastes in the mid-19th and early 20th centuries.

This house first appears on the 1858 map of Attleborough, where it is listed as one of several houses in Old Town owned by T.D. Sadler. In 1895, the house was in the possession of Mrs. Sadler. In the early 20th century the Stokes family acquired the house and they remodeled and enlarged it when it was damaged by fire.

25-19 9 Mount Hope Street David E. Whiting House c. 1860.

The Whiting House, one of several small mid-19th century houses in Old Town, exemplifies the use of nominally Greek Revival details in the traditional five-bay-wide, one-and-a-third-story house. The center, flank, entry has full-length, four-pane sidelights flanking a four-panel door and a bracketed cornice. Other details include a box cornice with partial returns and cornice heads with broad friezes on the end windows. This window treatment presumably decorated the front windows before the casement windows were installed. There are rubblestone foundations and an internal chimney on the west gable end. There is a shed-roof dormer on the rear slope and a single-story rear wing, part with a gable roof and part with a flat roof.

In 1860, David E. Whiting purchased this relatively small lot from Elisha G. May, whose farm stretched from Old Post Road east to Linden Avenue. Whiting, who had been living on Old Post Road north of Draper Avenue in 1858, presumably built this house shortly thereafter, certainly by 1871. In 1881, he sold the property to Susan Barnes, who lived here until the turn of the century.

25-77 Opposite 9 Mount Hope Street Town Powder House Built 1768.

A one-story circular brick building with a wood shingled conical roof, approximately twelve feet in diameter with wooden door. Situated on a wooded, rocky knoll north of Mount Hope Street, the powder house has been painted and re-roofed twice in its history. Since 1965 it has been enclosed by a chain link fence.

The magazine was constructed to store the town stock of ammunition between September and December 1768 on land just east of the training field, by Jacob Newell, then Town Treasurer. It remained in active service through the War of 1812. By the 1870's, the townspeople were taking steps to preserve the building as a historical landmark.

25-129 15 Mount Hope Street Edward Perry House Built between 1897 and 1911.

The Perry House is a two-story cross-gable roof house with boxed eaves with cyma recta molding, in internal chimney that replaces the original, and an enclosed hip-roof front porch. The house has paired narrow one-over-one double-hung sash windows, with shutters, and rubblestone foundations. The building is T-shaped with a single-story gable-roof wing on the rear with two-additions. The interior of the house has been extensively remodeled in recent years. A relatively modest house in stylistic terms, the Perry House is one of three houses (with the two Daniel B. Hunt houses) erected in the Kentston Park subdivision at the turn of the century.

In 1897 Edward Perry purchased Lot 77 in the Kentston Park subdivision platted in 1892, the year the electric streetcar line was built on Old Post Road. In 1905 Perry purchased Lots 66, 76 and 78, completing his ownership of the lots on the corner of Linden Avenue and Mount Hope Street. In 1911 Perry sold his lots, including a building that was presumably this house lot to A. H. Whittaker.

25-77 20 Mount Hope Street Peavy-Todd Farm Late 20th century.

Ranchhouse-non-contributing; Barn, house site and farmscape contributing. The present house on the property, a single-story, L-shaped, gable-roof structure with painted shingle and vertical board siding and a large picture window, is typical of recent residential construction. The original house, a mid-19th century building, was recently destroyed by fire and no description or depiction of it has been located. However, the stone walls and the surviving barn occupy an important place in the Old Town landscape and help preserve the area's rural character. The barn is a studded structure with horizontal board sheathing and wood shingles. Its six-over-six double-hung sash windows have been boarded over. The main entrance in the west gable end is approached by an earth ramp; there is also a doorway in the stone basement wall on the south

flank. Although the southern side of the barn has been damaged by fire, the building is important as one of the few surviving 19th century farm outbuildings in the district.

LINDEN AVENUE

25-21 10 Linden Avenue late 20th century

Garrison Colonial Non-contributing.

25-95 40 Linden Avenue late 20th century

Modern Vernacular Non-contributing

25-174 49 Linden Avenue Newell-Pond House c. 1715 et seq.

A two-story, shingled frame house with a flank-gable, saltbox roof and a rebuilt center chimney and an internal chimney in the south gable end. The house, which is six bays wide appears to have grown from north to south. Changes in the framing that are evident in the attic suggest that the original house was a vertical-plank-wall single-cell structure that was doubled in size by an addition on the south side of the chimney that had a studded frame and horizontal board sheathing. Very little interior or exterior trim survives from this early 18th century building campaign. The southern two bays of the house constitute a mid to late 18th century addition. The first-story parlour in this wing has a fireplace trimmed with bolection molding and a paneled overmantel and doors with four raised panels.

BARN Mid (?) 18th century

A one-story timber-framed, end-gable-roofed barn with posts that have distinctive double shoulders or jowls, one at mid-height to carry a girt and one of double thickness at the post head, to carry the plate. The barn sits on a single knoll with a rubble-walled cellar entered at the lower ground level. The property also contains a non-contributing shed and outdoor swimming pool.

STAGECOACH ROAD

25-143 3 Stagecoach Road Daniel B. Hunt House c.1908

This one-and-a-half story end-gable-roof house is a more modest edition of the large suburban houses built nearby on Old Post Road. A front porch with turned posts and a square railing and a hip roof shelters the front entry and the flanking tripartate window. A gable-roof wall dormer on either flank creates a cross gable effect; the roof has boxed, molded eaves with a frieze, raked in the gables. A single-story semi-hexagonal bay on the west flank balances the side entry with a new porch on the east flank. The two-over-one double-hung sash windows are trimmed with architrave molding. The foundations are rusticated concrete block.

In 1892 M. Carleton Lathrop had the plan of a "Subdivision of Kentston Park" drawn up, which plan divided the bulk of the land formerly contained in the Elisha G. May estate (east of Old Post Road, south of Mount Hope Street, west of Linden Avenue and on both sides of Stage Coach Road) into seventy-eight house lots. The present Stagecoach Road was laid out at this time under the name of Columbus Avenue. In 1908 Daniel B. Hunt purchased twenty lots and sometime thereafter built this house on Lots 4 and 5, as well as an identical dwelling on Lots 12, 13, and 16. With the exception of the Perry House at 15 Mt. Hope, the Hunt houses were the only residences to be built in Kentston Park until after World War II. Hunt sold this house to Ruth and Frederick Elliot in 1934 and it remained in the Elliot family until 1963.

25-130,27,34 17 Stagecoach Road c. 1908

So altered as to be non-contributing. Before its recent alterations this house was apparently identical to the Hunt House above.

25-20 c. 20 Stagecoach Road

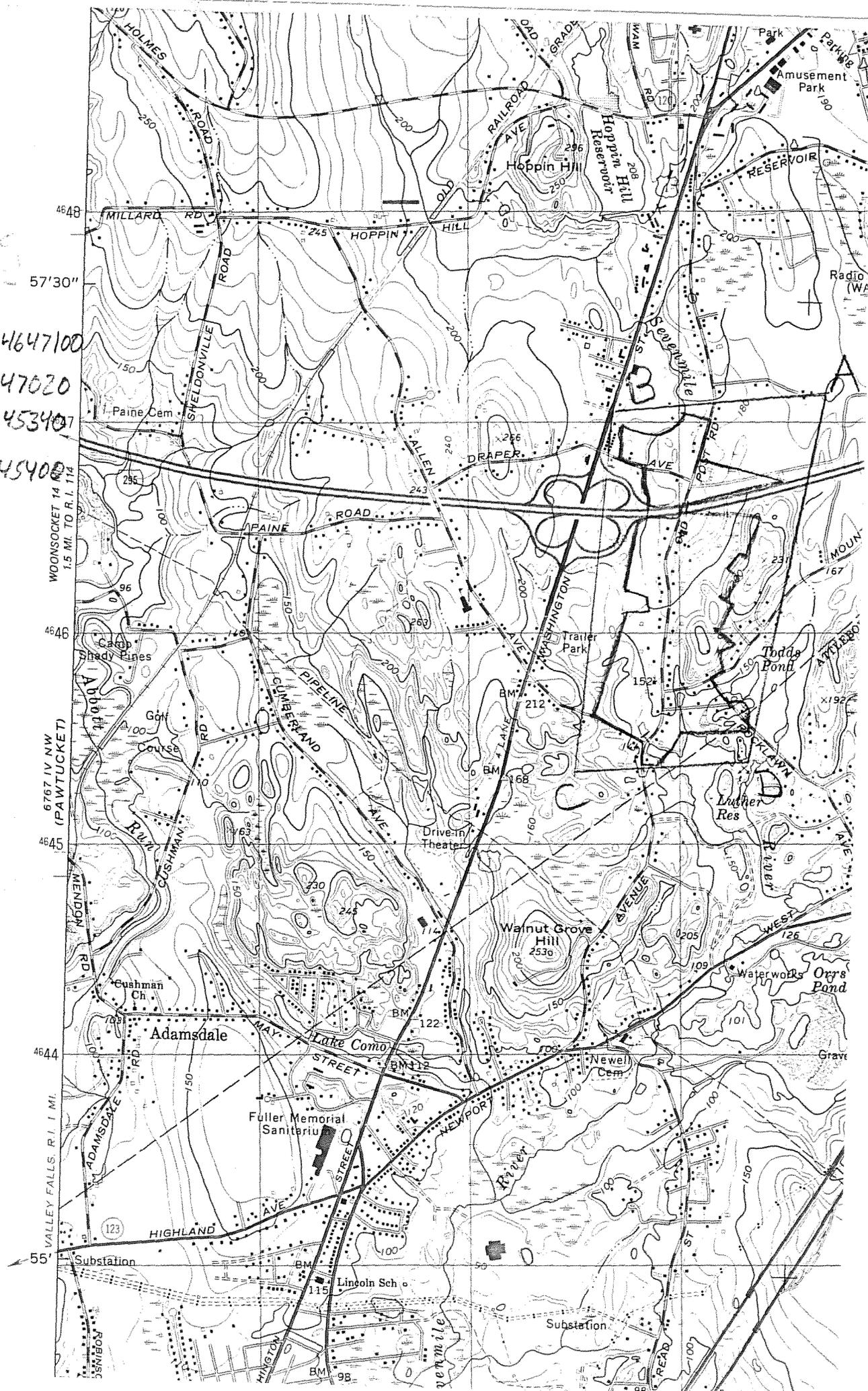
Modern Ranch. Non-contributing.

25-22 c. 35 Stagecoach Road

Garrison Colonial Non-contributing.

Old Town
Historic District
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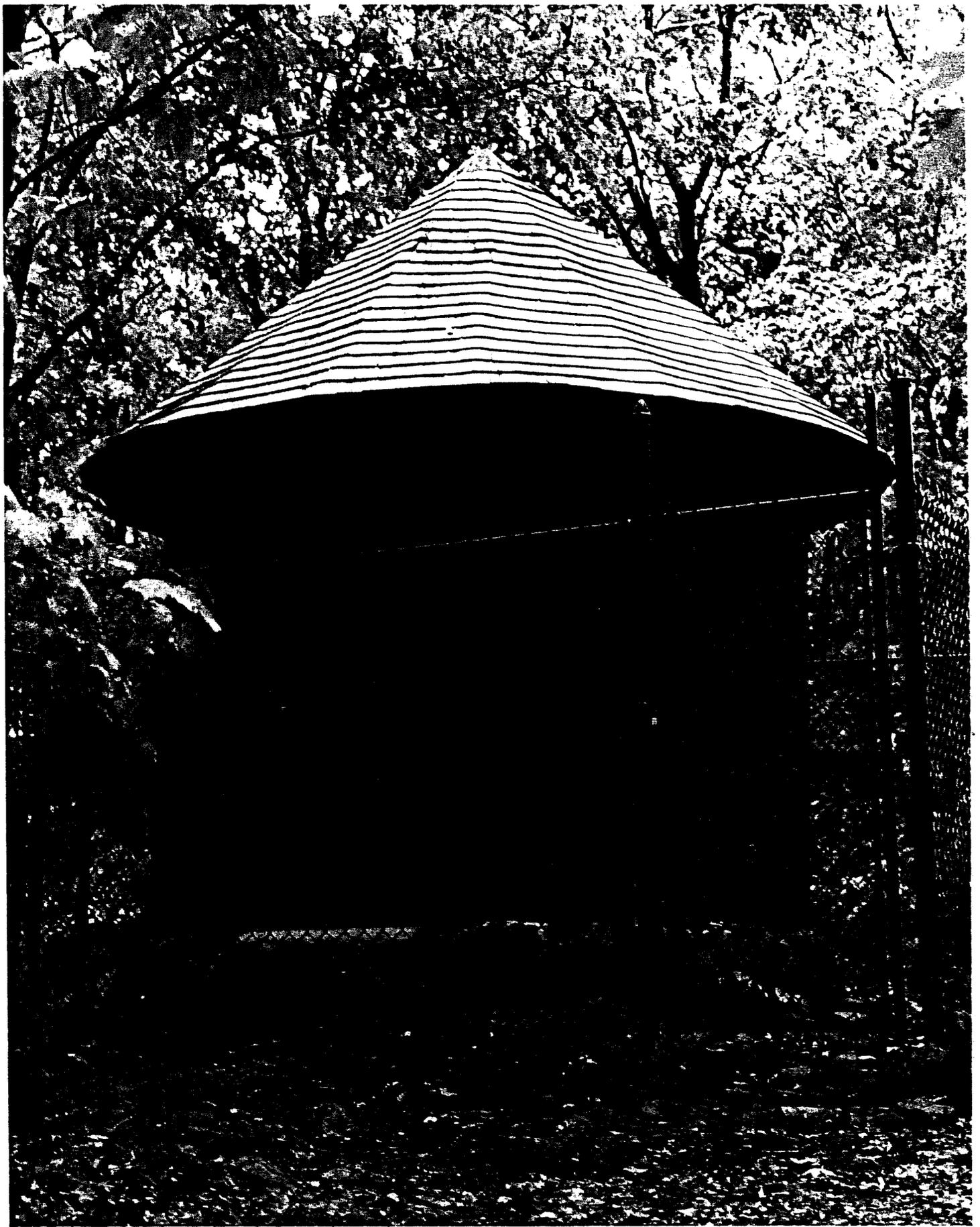
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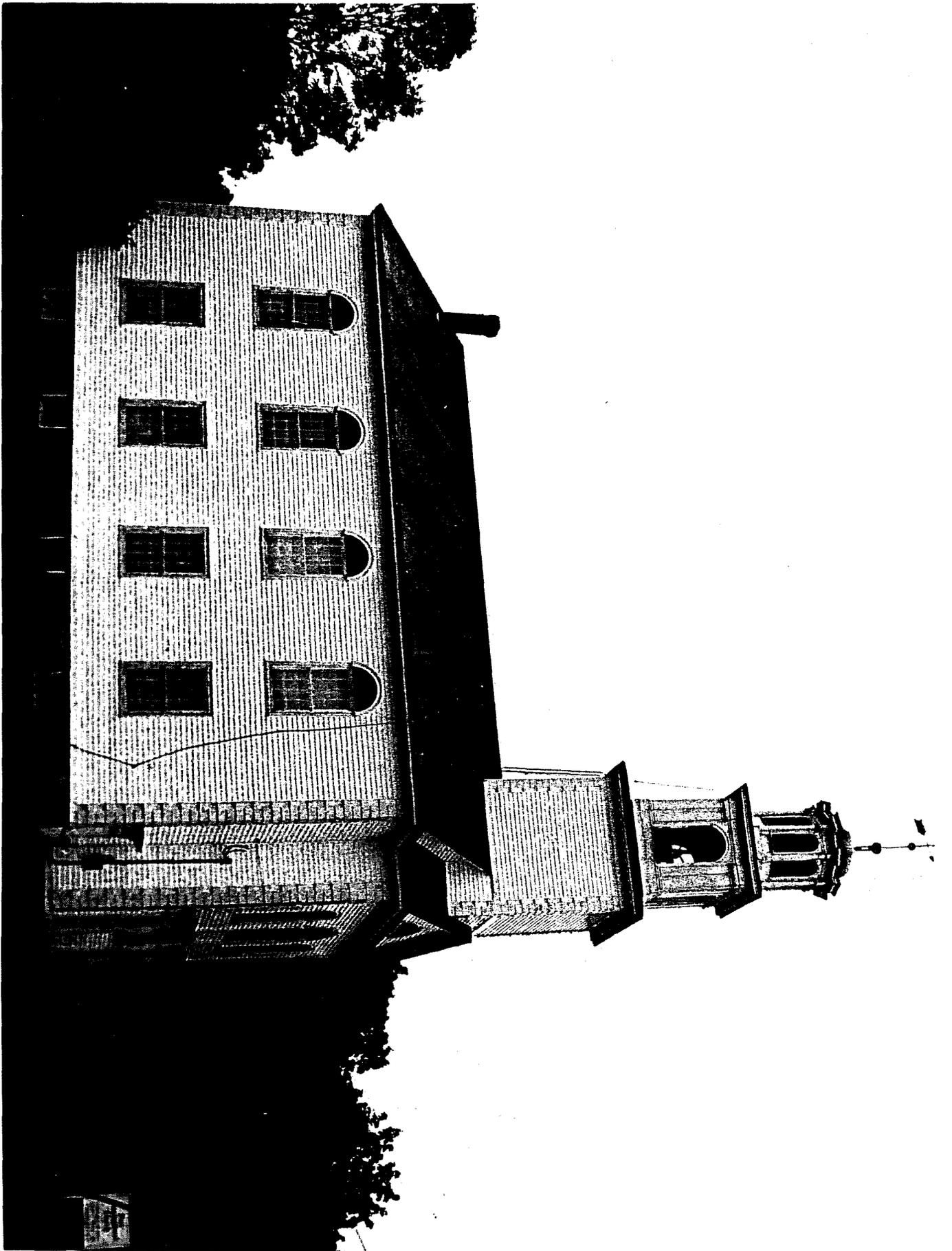


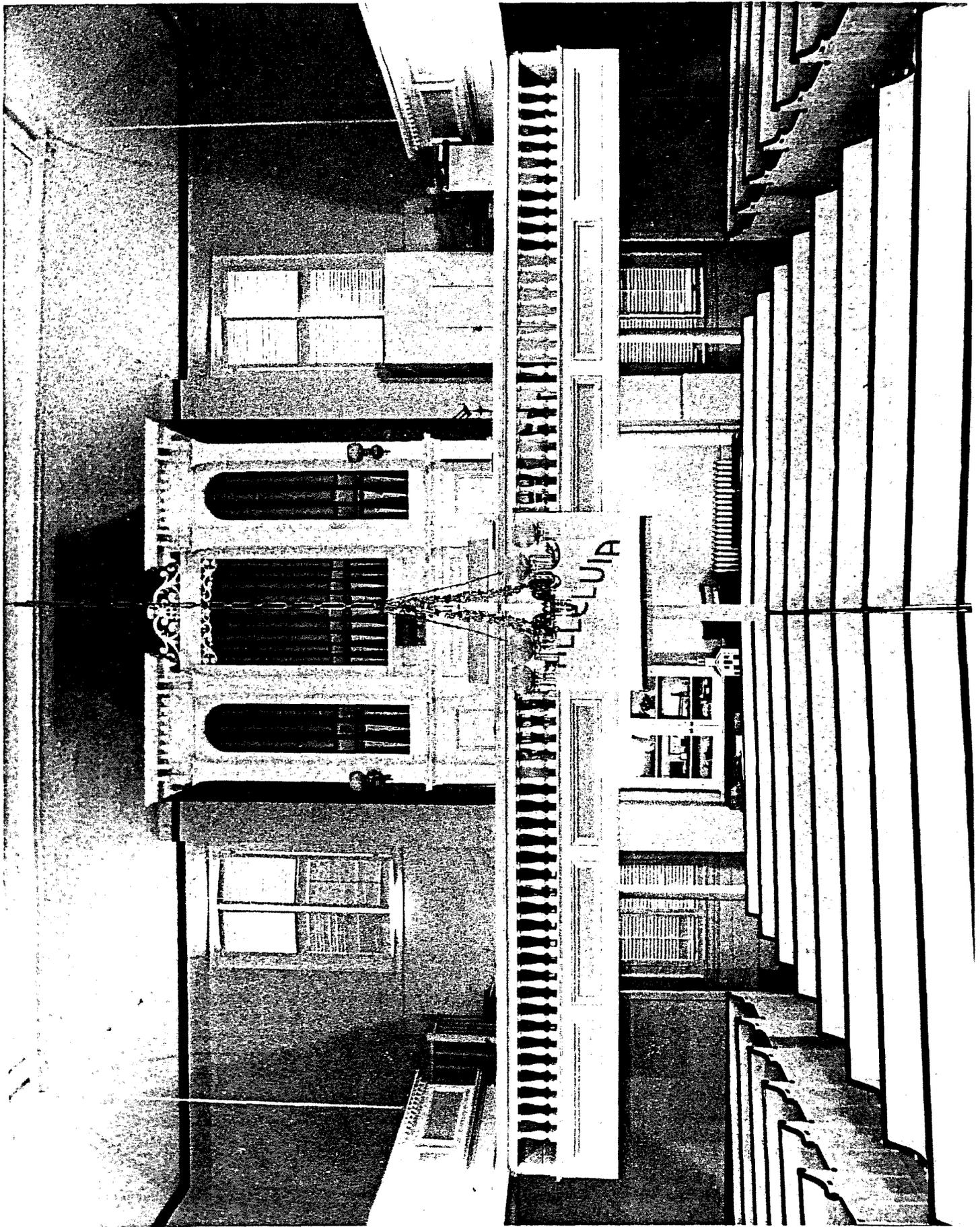
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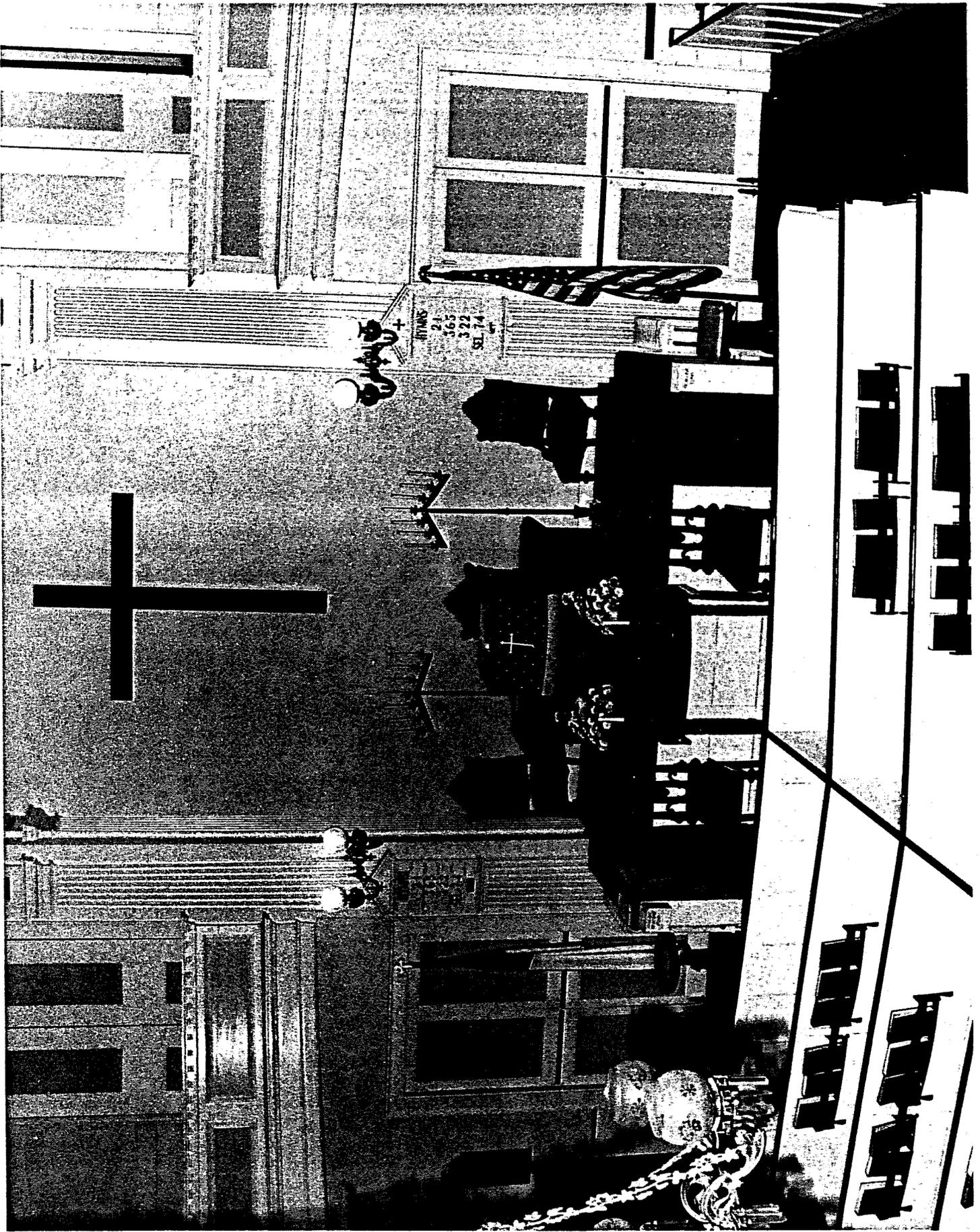
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