

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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received AUG - 6 1985
date entered SEP 5 1985

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Russells Mills Village
and or common Russells Mills Village Historic District (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Various addresses on Russells Mills, Rock O' Dundee,
Slades Corner, Horseneck and Fisher Roads NA not for publication
(see attached property/owner list)
city, town Dartmouth NA vicinity of
state Massachusetts code 025 county Bristol code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>NA</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>recreation</u>

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Owners (see attached property/owner list)
street & number _____
city, town Dartmouth NA vicinity of _____ state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bristol County Registry of Deeds
street & number 25 North Sixth Street
city, town New Bedford state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1983 (see attached property/owner list for _____ federal state _____ county _____ local individual inventory form numbers)
depository for survey records Massachusetts Historic Commission, 80 Boylston Street
city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description Russells Mills Village Historic District, Dartmouth, MA

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Russells Mills Historic District is a rural industrial village located in the southwestern portion of the town of Dartmouth, Massachusetts, about 7 miles south of downtown New Bedford. The district is situated on the Paskamansett River, the principal tributary of the Slocum River, which empties into Buzzards Bay about 3 1/4 miles downstream from Russells Mills, between Mishaum and Deep Water Points.

Russells Mills Historic District contains forty-one wood frame buildings--private residences, public and commercial buildings, and their respective outbuildings--of which thirty-seven contribute to the district's historic and visual integrity. The district is sited around a rural crossroads and is composed of five major roads (and one small section of a secondary road) that converge at a small open area. Most of the buildings are located along a 3/4-mile-long stretch of Russells Mills Road, parallel to the Paskamansett River. Four other roadways--Rock O' Dundee, Slades Corner, Horseneck, and Fisher--are included within the district bounds. To the north of the district's center, the land is relatively level; to the south, it rises gently to the crest of a hill. At this point, Russells Mills Road runs downhill and becomes Horseneck Road. At the crest is the major crossroads that forms the district's core.

The southern boundary of the district is the Slocum River and the Town Landing. To the west, the district boundary approaches Destruction Brook, also a tributary of the Slocum River. To the east, the district is roughly bounded by the Paskamansett River and an 18th-century holding pond. To the north, the district abuts a modern industrial facility. The majority of the buildings within the district were constructed in the eighteenth century and the first half of the nineteenth century. These buildings reflect the prevalent rural interpretation of contemporary New England styles of architecture. Most of the structures are one and a half or two stories in height, with clapboard or shingled exteriors, decorated and painted conservatively and well maintained.

Russells Mills Historic District retains the rural setting of the mid-nineteenth century; houses and other structures are generally set near the road and retain small fields used for producing hay or vegetables.

While Russells Mills was originally settled in the mid 17th century as a small agricultural community, the area had become a small industrial node by the 18th century. As many as eleven water-powered mills were operating within the village at one time, although none remains today. The mills performed such functions as grinding grain, fulling cloth, working iron, and sawing timbers and shingles. All depended upon the nearby Slocum River and its tributaries,

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particularly the Paskamansett (Fresh) River and Destruction Brook, for power. Dams, canals, and foundations remain, but little else of the wooden buildings--many of which were probably no larger than a small house--remains.

A few of the mill sites have been undisturbed since the nineteenth century. Especially well preserved are the sites of an iron forge and early mill near the original Russell house. Also located near the Russell house is an Indian Burial Ground referred to in deeds and commonly accepted in local history.

The following description of a number of representative buildings in the Russells Mills Historic District is arranged chronologically. Residences, which predominate in the district, are discussed first. Other types of structures follow.

Residential Buildings

The small house at 1190 Russells Mills Road (ca. 1670, #50), is probably the oldest house in Dartmouth still standing. The 1 1/2-story saltbox has a large, central chimney and asymmetrical fenestration. Narrow cornerboards, splayed lintels, 8/12 windows, and a simple door enframingent composed of engaged pilasters and a wide entablature suggest Federal-period alterations. A gabled-roof ell is a 19th-century addition. Near the dwelling is evidence of an upper dam, a holding pond, and an iron forge, as well as the foundations of other mills

Despite a "1723" date on its central chimney, the Russell House, 1193 Russells Mills Road (#104), exhibits both Federal and Greek Revival features on its exterior and may have at its core a considerably smaller First Period structure. The present 2 1/2-story, 3/4-plan house is the product of an early nineteenth century remodeling, at which time the size of the building was doubled and narrow corner boards and 12/12 windows with splayed lintels were added. The entranceway, however, is Greek Revival in style, with full-length sidelights and incised pilasters supporting heavy entablature. An enclosed porch on the southwest side of the building is a still later addition. A nineteenth-century barn remains on the property. It is believed that the grounds may also hold the foundations of an earlier building.

The 1 1/2-story cottage nearby, at 1202 Russells Mills Road (ca. 1730, #171), is believed also to have belonged to a member of the Russell family. The simple structure, symmetrical and five bays wide, is framed by plain corner boards and is surmounted by a pitched roof and a somewhat asymmetrically placed chimney on the ridge line.

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The Cummings House, 849 Rock O' Dundee Road (ca. 1780, #223), is a larger, Federal-style house that sustained several additions and alterations later in the 19th century. Its scale and size were appropriate for the Cummings family, who operated a mill on the banks of the Paskamansett River. Five bays wide and 2 1/2 stories in height, the building is framed by narrow corner boards and capped by an extended cornice. Later alterations include a ca. 1820 Greek Revival-style portico, embellished with a triglyph and metope motif and supported by Doric columns, which fronts the entrance. The door surround incorporates incised pilasters, a transom, and sidelights.

At 1197 Russells Mills Road (ca. 1795, #281), a small, Federal-period cottage is typical of the modest late 18th and early 19th century dwellings in the district. The building is five bays wide and 1 1/2 stories in height. Splayed lintels cap the symmetrically placed windows. The present entryway is probably an early 19th century addition--its 3/4 sidelights, incised pilasters, and broad architrave suggest the Greek Revival style. Two chimneys, asymmetrically placed and located in front of the ridge, may be later replacements.

Several Greek Revival-style residences erected in the 1830s and 1840s are also included in the district boundaries. The building at 27 Slades Corner Road (ca. 1840, #347), for instance, is a front-facing gable plan, 1 1/2-story, three-bay house with ell that displays Greek Revival-style window and door surrounds (the latter with a deep but simple entablature), corner boards, frieze, cornice, and returns. In the late 19th century, a polygonal second story bay, with 2/1 windows, and a ground-story open porch were added to the ell but the building's main block retains its mid-19th century appearance.

At 885 Rock O' Dundee Road (ca. 1850, #350) stands another Greek Revival-style building, somewhat more imposing (2 1/2 stories), that likewise is a front-facing gable plan structure, three bays wide. A single-story ell at the rear is a later addition. This structure too displays Greek Revival-style door surround--incorporating paneled pilasters, 3/4 sidelights, and deep entablature--and its main facade is framed by corner pilasters joining a cornice with shallow returns. Fenestration is 6/6 throughout the main body of the house.

The contemporaneous carriage house for 885 Rock O' Dundee Road (ca. 1840, #306), a 1 1/2-story, front-facing gable building with a narrow cornice and returns and carriage doors framed by simple entablature, was moved to its present location at 889 Rock O' Dundee Road in 1924 and now serves as a pottery factory.

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Residential construction slowed in the district after the 1840s, and up into the middle of the 20th century, only a few modest dwellings were erected. However, one particularly noteworthy late 19th century structure was constructed. It is the Allen House, 1227 Russells Mills Road (ca. 1870, #460), an intact Second Empire-style dwelling, small in scale but with a number of the decorative elements typical of the style. The building is five bays wide, 1 1/2 stories in height, with a deep mansard roof. Simple brackets, closely set, are placed along the eave line. The central entryway, with paired entry doors, is embellished with an ornated bracketed portico supported by slender incised columns. A carved scroll is centered in the front of the portico. A single-story polygonal bay, with a flat roof supported by brackets, projects from the side of the building. Three shallow, flat-roofed dormers, with scrollwork at the bases of their window surrounds, project slightly from the roof. Fenestration is 2/2. The Allen House is the only Second Empire-style residence in Dartmouth.

Nonresidential Buildings

The Russells Mills Historic District contains a number of nonresidential structures built during the 19th and early 20th century to serve a variety of community needs.

Davoll's General Store, 1228 Russells Mills Road (ca. 1800, #216), is a simple structure with some Federal-style features that was originally both a residence and a store, and continues to serve that dual purpose. The building is a 2 1/2-story, front-facing gable plan commercial building with a central entrance, clapboard siding, and corner boards. A rear addition with a similarly pitched roof was built shortly after the main block and still serves as a private residence. Window caps in both the main block and ell, and the simple Greek Revival-style surround of the main block's entryway, are believed to have been added in the second quarter of the 19th century. A long, single-story ell to the left of the main block was added in the late 19th century and incorporates an earlier separate outbuilding and attached carriage shed.

The Town Pound on Russells Mills Road (#903) was built in 1831 to confine stray animals (including cattle, hogs, and geese), which would be freed after the payment of a fine. Russells Mills Pound was not the first in Dartmouth (one was built as early as 1686), but it is the only one that survives intact. It was built utilizing a natural stone ledge for the back wall; the other three walls are granite fieldstone built without any bonding material. The pound is entered through an iron-hinged wooden gate that bears the

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Legend: "Dartmouth Town Pound/Name of Grantor: Allen Sisson/Date of Transition: March 23, 1831."

The former Second Christian Church, now the Doll Museum, is located at 1212 Russells Mills Road (1836, #301). The building is set on a low rise and the entrance is reached by broad granite steps, now partially covered by brick. Two paneled entrance doors, surrounded by paneled molding, flank a triple-sashed, round-arched window in the three-bay, gable-end facade. Incised corner pilasters support a deep entablature and a moderate-pitched roof. On the side are placed a pair of round-arched windows, similar to those on the main facade but with a wooden fan taking the place of the top window sash.

Built ca. 1860 as the Russells Mills School, the building at 1205 Russells Mills Road (#303) has served continuously as a public building--first as a grammar school, then as a grammar and high school and, since 1895, as the town library. The building is Greek Revival in style, three bays wide, with a front-facing gable and discontinuous cornice and returns. A small incised triangular feature is applied to the otherwise unadorned pediment. A belfrey with corner pilasters is set on the ridgeline, near the front of the building. The portico sheltering the paired entry doors is a later addition.

The Dartmouth Grange, 1133 Fisher Road (ca. 1890, #305), is a frame vernacular building with a front-facing gable, centrally located paired entry doors, and 2/2 fenestration. Windows are adorned with capped lintels and sills. The building continues to be used as a grange hall.

The 1913 Russells Mills School, 1167 Russells Mills Road (#501), replaced the earlier Russells Mills School when it opened in 1914. Believed to have been designed by area architect Erford Poole, the school is a well-preserved vernacular example of Queen Anne/Shingle Style architecture. The building is cross gable in plan and 2 1/2 stories in height. It is sheathed with close-fitting wooden shingles relieved by narrow bands of painted wood trim around the gables and windows. Painted corner boards frame the first story only. The windows are varied: some are grouped in pairs or in sets of four and five, others are fixed transoms with 2/2 sash. The result is visual variety on the exterior and a great deal of natural light inside. There is a central chimney at the intersection of the gables and a portico sheltering the entryway.

Continued

8. Significance Russells Mills Village Historic District, Dartmouth, MA

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) recreation, community development

Specific dates 1652-1920

Builder/Architect multiple

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Russells Mills Historic District is an intact early 18th-mid 19th century "mechanics village" located at a rural crossroads in Dartmouth, Massachusetts. Essentially unchanged since the mid nineteenth century, the district retains integrity of setting, design, location, materials, workmanship, and feeling, as well as associations with the beginnings of Massachusetts' shipbuilding and early rural industrial development, albeit on a small scale. Architecturally, the district is significant for its full range of intact 18th- and 19th-century village elements, from dwellings to schools and stores to houses of worship. The district also contains a high potential for significant archaeological remains for both its prehistoric and its historic past. The district thus fulfills Criteria A, B, C, and D of the National Register of Historic Places.

Old Dartmouth, the original town in the area, was initially an enormous tract, encompassing the present towns of Westport, Acushnet, Fairhaven, and Dartmouth, the City of New Bedford, and parts of Little Compton and Tiverton, Rhode Island. It was largely forested, with numerous intersecting streams and a heavily indented coastline. In 1652, 34 of the first Plymouth colonists purchased Old Dartmouth from the Wampanoag Indians. Each proprietor's share included at least 2,000 acres. Most of the proprietors chose not to settle in Dartmouth, as they were already established elsewhere. By 1663, absentee owners were being taxed for the support of the settlement by order of the Plymouth authorities. Many of the purchasers of these shares were Baptists and Quakers, seeking refuge on what was then the frontier. Absentee ownership, Dartmouth's isolating forests and waterways, and religious friction all contributed to dispersed settlement rather than the more traditional nucleus of the planned New England village with its central green surrounded by a cluster of buildings. Dartmouth's scattered villages developed out of specific needs: Russells Mills, for example, as a source of waterpower for mills; Padanaram because of its fine natural harbor.

One of the earliest of the Dartmouth villages evolved along the Paskamansett River. In 1661, John Russell of Marshfield purchased Miles Standish's share of Dartmouth known as "Ponagansett"; he had settled there by 1665. This section of Dartmouth is about three miles from Russells Mills and is now known as Padanaram.

By the 1670s, members of the Russell family had arrived at the confluence of the Paskamansett River and Destruction Brook, the site of early native American settlement. The oldest house still standing in the area is that of a Russell family member. Located at 1190 Russells Mills Road (ca. 1670, #50), the Russell House retains its distinctive First Period silhouette. The

Continued

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 74 acres

Quadrangle name Westport

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A

1	9	3	3	2	9	6	0	4	6	0	4	6	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

1	9	3	3	3	1	3	0	4	6	0	4	0	6	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

1	9	3	3	3	0	7	0	4	6	0	3	7	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

1	9	3	3	2	7	0	0	4	6	0	3	7	1	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

1	9	3	3	2	4	5	0	4	6	0	3	9	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

1	9	3	3	2	6	2	0	4	6	0	4	2	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betsy Friedberg, preservation planner, Massachusetts Historical Commission, with Peter Jacobson, Peggi Medeiros and Antone G. Souza, Jr., Consultants

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date April, 1985

street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts 02116

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Valerie A. Talmage
Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission
title State Historic Preservation Officer date July 15, 1985

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

John Helms Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 9/5/85

Attest: Chief of Registration date

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Russell House is the only building in the district known to have survived King Philip's War in 1675-1676. Despite the war, which suggested the disadvantages of scattered settlement, the pattern of decentralization continued in Dartmouth and Russells Mills began to develop as an independent community.

By 1704, the area was generally referred to as "Joseph Russell's mills." (Joseph was the son of early settler John Russell.) Two dams had been erected along the Paskamansett River and mills had been established by the end of the 17th century to grind grain, full cloth, and, eventually, to saw lumber. Although other commercial activities, including mills built by other settlers, developed within the district, the area has retained its associations with the Russell family. Other mills known to have existed concurrently with the Russell family's included a grist mill on Destruction Brook (another tributary of the Slocum River), run by Ebenezer Allen by 1711, located just outside the nominated district.

During the eighteenth century, Russells Mills Village grew and prospered. Quakers from Massachusetts and nearby Rhode Island arrived well into the 18th century. The area's first Quaker meetinghouse (no longer standing) was built ca. 1699 northeast of Russells Mills, about 1 1/4 miles east of the bounds of the district. At the lower Russell dam on the Paskamansett--where Rock 0' Dundee Road traverses the stream--and at the upper Russell dam about 1/8 mile upstream were active mills engaged in the necessities of local economic activity: grinding grain and preparing lumber, shingles, and cloth for finished products. A millpond and a holding pond still survive at these points, manmade features on the landscape that resulted from the dams erected by the early owners to provide power for their mills.

Downstream from the lower dam, several mills are known to have existed during the 18th century: one mill on the Paskamansett and one or perhaps two mills on Destruction Brook where it joins the Paskamansett to become the Slocum River. Just below the confluence of these waterways is the Town Landing, which by the mid 18th century sustained a modest shipyard where building and other maritime-associated activity took place. (At the same time, Bedford Village, the first urban nucleus in Old Dartmouth, was becoming a focus of marine activities and would soon overshadow Russells Mills.) It is said ships were constructed at Russells Mills' Town Landing and floated down the river with kegs and casks added for buoyancy until the river deepened enough to accommodate their draft. Activity in the shipyard continued into the twentieth century with the building of a few small wooden commercial fishing boats. The last structures related to boatbuilding were destroyed in the 1940s; now the Town Landing serves as a village park.

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Several residences within the district boundaries survive from this period of growth in Russells Mills. They include a second Russell House at 1193 Russells Mills Road (ca. 1685, #104), a 2 1/2-story building that now retains elements of Federal-period styling and that is believed to have been constructed by a descendant of John Russell, and a center-chimney cottage at 1202 Russells Mills Road (ca. 1730, #171), original owner unknown.

By the close of the Revolution, Russells Mills Village was a well-established community and included stores, blacksmith shop, mills of various types, houses, and a church. The majority of late 18th century dwellings surviving in the district are simple Federal-style cottages. One residence, however, is somewhat grander in scale. The Cummings House, 849 Rock O' Dundee Road (ca. 1780, #223), was built by Benjamin Russell. Through marriage, the house passed by 1820 to the Cummings family, who operated one of the village mills and by the mid 19th century were operating successful mercantile businesses in Padanaram and New Bedford (the former Bedford Village, which was established as a separate town in 1787). The Cummings House is a 2 1/2-story, five-bay, Federal-style house with a classically adorned Greek Revival-style portico added at the time the Cummings assumed possession of the building.

At the upper dam site in 1789, Giles Russell (still another descendant of John Russell) built an iron forge or furnace in Russells Mills near his grist mill, and bog iron removed from the Russells Mills area supplied the facility. The forge apparently was not successful, but the grist mill continued operation into the nineteenth century. Near this site a successful carding mill was also constructed; it was owned and operated by Robert Gifford until the Civil War, at which time it ceased operation. A tannery was also in operation during this period. None of these industrial structures survive.

As the nineteenth century progressed, the village continued to grow. Simple but handsome Greek Revival-style buildings were interspersed among the 18th and early 19th century houses and cottages. Examples include buildings at 1125 and 1133 Russells Mills Road, both constructed ca. 1830, and two residences nearby at 21 and 27 Slades Corner Road (#347), built ca. 1840. The last Greek Revival-style residence in the district was built at 885 Rock O' Dundee Road ca. 1850 (#350). A number of the older residences in the district were updated with the addition of 6/6 windows, Greek Revival-style entrance surrounds, and window caps--for instance, a small Federal cottage at 1197 Russells Mills Road (ca. 1795, #281) received a Greek Revival entrance surround in the 1830s.

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Nineteenth-century Russells Mills was a thriving community. At one point there were eleven operating mills within its limits. The village had stores, a tailor shop, a church, blacksmith shops, a shipyard, and, possibly, an inn or roadhouse. A general store (ca. 1800, #216) in the village center served both the immediate community and those still somewhat isolated in the surrounding countryside. The Second Christian Church (ca. 1836, #301) was the only ecclesiastical structure in the district (the Friends Meetinghouse being outside the district bounds). The village's Town Pound, erected in 1831, confined stray animals until their owners could pay fines to reclaim them.

By 1857, the village boasted 50 buildings and a Post Office (housed within the aforementioned general store). A new school was built ca. 1860 in the Greek Revival style (#303) and served the village's needs--first as grammar school and then as both grammar and high school--into the 20th century. Eventually the building was converted to a lending library, and remains such to the present day. Only a handful of residences were constructed, including a small but well-detailed Second Empire-style dwelling, the Allen House (ca. 1870, #470), and several vernacular expressions of the Gothic Revival.

Toward the end of the nineteenth century, growth slowed considerably. Although some industrial and marine-related activities continued within the district, Russells Mills' shipyard and mills withered under the competition of the technologically and geographically advantaged Padanaram and, more importantly, New Bedford. Most of the mill activity had ended by 1865; only agriculture and its supporting activities remaining to sustain the village. A Grange Hall was erected ca. 1890, and continues to serve the same purpose for Dartmouth and New Bedford to this day. A larger grammar and high school was built in the district in 1913 to serve the needs of students within a five-mile radius of the village crossroads. Only within the past 20 years has it fallen into disuse.

Today the village is primarily a bedroom community for New Bedford. Its mills have disappeared; its Town Landing is now a recreational facility, complete with swings, tennis courts, launching ramps, and a small boathouse; and its Congregational Church, now deconsecrated, has for many decades housed a doll museum. Nevertheless, Russells Mills Historic District remains essentially a rural center, its visual integrity preserved.

Archaeological Significance

Due to its low density and rural character, the Russells Mills Historic District has a high potential for significant archaeological remains.

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No prehistoric archaeological sites are currently known in the district or in proximity to it. This is, however, a reflection of underreporting: the northern shore of Buzzards Bay remains one of the least documented parts of the state. Based on studies in analogous portions of the nearby Taunton drainage, it is likely that sites ranging from the Early Archaic through European contact and settlement may be present. Given the location of the district at the head of a tidal river, the potential for such multicomponent sites should be considered high.

The district also possesses significant potential for historical archaeological sites, specifically 17th- through 19th-century mill and forge complexes along Destruction Brook and the Paskamansett River, and the likelihood of wells, privies, and other features around many of the standing structures. The property at 1190 Russells Mills Road should be considered particularly sensitive.

Russells Mills is an important example of a small, linear milling community that was dominated by one family from the late 17th century until the early 19th. Because large-scale industrial development did not occur, the potential for documenting 18th century milling technology is very good. Occupation-related features provide an opportunity both to document and examine in detail the social and economic aspects of this type of community.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Leonard Papers, typed and bound manuscript, Genealogy Room, New Bedford Free Public Library, New Bedford, MA.

Records and Maps, Tax Assessors Office, Town of Dartmouth, Dartmouth, MA.

Representative Men of Old Families of Southeastern Massachusetts, J. H. Beers and Company, Chicago, 1912.

"Old Dartmouth Historical Sketches," Old Dartmouth Historical Society papers, bound reference copies, Genealogy Room, New Bedford Free Public Library, New Bedford, MA.

Newspapers on microfilm, Genealogy Room, New Bedford Free Public Library, New Bedford, MA:

New Bedford Evening Standard

New Bedford Mercury

New Bedford Standard-Times

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Russells Mills Village
Historic District Item number 10
Dartmouth, MA

Page 1

The Russells Mills Village Historic District's boundaries are largely made up of natural features. To the south, the boundary is the Slocum River and the Town Landing. To the west, the district boundary approaches Destruction Brook, excluding several twentieth-century residences. To the north, the district abuts a modern industrial facility. To the east, the district is roughly bounded by the Town of Dartmouth Sanitary Landfill, a modern saw mill, the Paskamansett River and the Mill Pond. Boundaries were drawn to include the greatest number of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century properties relating to the industrial village and to exclude as many peripheral non-contributing properties as possible. Please see the district map for exact boundaries.

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

Dartmouth, Russells Mills Village Historic District

MHC#	Map #	Historic Name	Street Address	Date of Construction	Style
	1107		1107 Russells Mills Road	c.1790	Cape
	1125		1125 Russells Mills Road	c.1830	Greek Revival
	1133		1133 Russells Mills Road	c.1830	Greek Revival
	1136		1136 Russells Mills Road	c.1970	Modern Cape - Noncontributing
	1147		1147 Russells Mills Road	c.1790	Cape
903	TP 1150	Town Pound	behind 1150 Russells Mills Road	c.1831	NA
	1150		1150 Russells Mills Road	c.1800	Federal
	1157		1157 Russells Mills Road	c.1820	Federal
501	1167	Russells Mills School	1167 Russells Mills Road	1913	Shingle Style
	1168		1168 Russells Mills Road	c.1790	Modified Cape
50	1190	The Russell House	1190 Russells Mills Road	c.1670	18th Century Storey and ½
405	1192	Drumlin Farm	1192 Russells Mills Road	c.1850	Gothic Revival/Greek Revival
104	1193	Second Russell House	1193 Russells Mills Road	c.1723	Federal
301	1200	Second Christian Church	1200 Russells Mills Road	ca. 1836	Greek Revival
281	1197		1197 Russells Mills Road	c.1795	Cape
171	1202		1202 Russells Mills Road	c.1730	Cape
303	1205	Old Russells Mills School	1205 Russells Mills Road	c.1860	Greek Revival
	1212		1212 Russells Mills Road	c.1836	Greek Revival
	1213		1213 Russells Mills Road	c.1845	Greek Revival
	1214		1214 Russells Mills Road	1930	Vernacular Commercial
	1219		1219 Russells Mills Road	c.1880	Gable End To Street
460	1227	Allen House	1227 Russells Mills Road	c.1870	French Second Empire
216	1228	Davoll's General Store	1228 Russells Mills Road	c.1800	Federal
	21		21 Slades Corner Road	c.1840	Greek Revival
347	27		27 Slades Corner Road	c.1840	Greek Revival
	32		32 Slades Corner Road	c.1875	Gable End To Street
	I 39		39 Slades Corner Road	c.1965	Ranch - Noncontributing

DISTRICT DATA SHEET continued

Russells Mills Village Historic District

MHC#	Map #	Historic Name	Street Address	Date of Construction	Style
	46		46 Slades Corner Road	c.1920	Shingle Style
	55	Captain Smith House	55 Slades Corner Road	c.1860	Gothic Revival
	842		842 Rock 'O' Dundee Road		
223	847-849	Cummings House	847-849 Rock 'O' Dundee Road	c.1780, c.1820	Federal, major addition
	558		558 Rock 'O' Dundee Road	c.1845	Greek Revival
350	885		885 Rock 'O' Dundee Road	c.1850	Greek Revival
	I 887		887 Rock 'O' Dundee Road	c.1970	Ranch - Noncontributing
306	889	Carriage House	889 Rock 'O' Dundee Road	c.1840	Greek Revival
279	893		893 Rock 'O' Dundee Road	c.1810	Altered Cape
	4		4 Tannery Lane	1972	Modern Cape - Noncontributing
	7		7 Horseneck Road	c.1810	Cape
	13		13 Horseneck Road	c.1815	Federal
	15		15 Horseneck Road	c.1844	Greek Revival
	30		30 Horseneck Road	1795	Cape
305	1133	Dartmouth Grange	1133 Fisher Road	1892	Gable End To Street
	1143		1143 Fisher Road	c.1880	Gable End To Street

REF#
85002011

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Russells Mills Village Historic District
Bristol County
MASSACHUSETTS

AUG 6 1985

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-4-86
Date Due: 9/5/85 9/20/85
Action: ACCEPT 9-5-85
 RETURN _____
 REJECT _____

**Entered in the
National Register**

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Federal Agency: _____

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition

- excellent
- good
- fair

- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name _____
UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



1190 Russells Mills Road
Dartmouth, Massachusetts
Photo by Peter Jacobsen 1984
Negative - Dartmouth Historical
Commission
Photograph Number 1 of 9
Looking North



Dartmouth, Massachusetts
Photo by Peter Jacobsen 1984
Negative - Dartmouth Historical
Commission

Photograph Number 2 of 9
Early Mill Site - Paskamansett
River - Behind 1190 Russells Mills
Road - Looking North



Dartmouth, Massachusetts
Photo by Peter Jacobsen 1984
Negative - Dartmouth Historical
Commission
Photograph Number 3 of 9
Village from Russells Mills Road
Looking West



Dartmouth, Massachusetts
Photo by Peter Jacobsen 1984
Negative - Dartmouth Historical
Commission
Photograph Number 4 of 9
Russells Mills Road Looking
Northeast



Captain Smith House
55 Slades Corner Road
Dartmouth, Massachusetts
Photo by Peter Jacobsen 1984
Negative - Dartmouth Historical
Commission
Photograph Number 5 of 9
Looking North



1147 Russells Mills Road
Dartmouth, Massachusetts
Photo by Peter Jacobsen 1984
Negative - Dartmouth Historical
Commission
Photograph Number 6 of 9
Looking West



Dartmouth, Massachusetts
Photo by Peter Jacobsen 1984
Negative - Dartmouth Historical
Commission
Photograph Number 7 of 9
Town Landing - Horseneck Road
Looking East



Dartmouth, Massachusetts

Photo by Peter Jacobsen 1984

Negative - Dartmouth Historical
Commission

Photograph Number 8 of 9

Village Center - Russells Mills

Looking East



The Cummings House
847-849 Rock 'O' Dundee Road
Dartmouth, Massachusetts
Photo by Ken Weinstein 1983
Negative - Dartmouth Historical
Commission
Photograph Number 9 of 9
Looking Southeast

SEE HOW
NEW ROAD
IS SHOWN



Russell's Mills Historic District
Dartmouth, MA

- UTM References:
- A. 19/332960/4604680
 - B. 19/333130/4604060
 - C. 19/333070/4603780
 - D. 19/332700/4603710
 - E. 19/332450/4603920
 - F. 19/332620/4604280



Russell's Mills Historic District
Dartmouth, MA
Westport USGS Quad

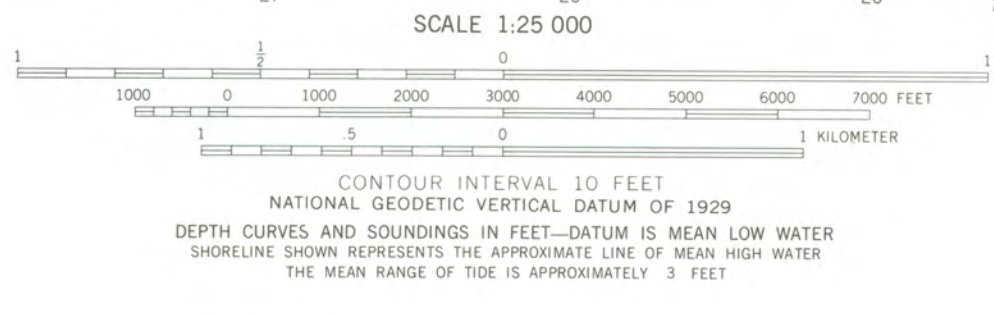
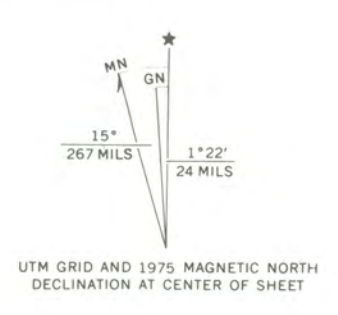
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 - D. 19/332700/4603710
 - E. 19/332450/4603920
 - F. 19/332620/4604280



To convert feet to meters
multiply by 3.048

To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by plane-table surveys 1939-1940. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1974. Field checked 1975
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS 237 (1973)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and Rhode Island coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
Civil boundaries in tidewater areas from information furnished
by the Massachusetts Department of Public Works



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 3 FEET



- ROAD CLASSIFICATION
- Primary highway, hard surface
 - Secondary highway, hard surface
 - Unimproved road
 - Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

WESTPORT, MASS.—R. I.
N4128.5—W7100/9X7.5

1977

AMS 6767 II SE—SERIES V814

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



NC = Noncontributing
 V = Vacant Lot

TOWN OF DARTMOUTH	
RUSSELLS MILLS VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT	
SCALE: 1" = 200'	PREPARED BY:
DATE: MARCH 1984	A. G. SOUZA & ASSOCIATES
	CHECKED BY: P. M. J.
	REVISED BY: A. G. S.
DARTMOUTH HISTORIC COMMISSION	
	DRAWING NUMBER

Russells Mills Doll & Toy
Museum
PO Box 100
Russells Mill, Dartmouth, MA 02714

52 ✓
RECEIVED

MAY - 6 1985

MASS. HIST. COMM.

May 2, 1985

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Valerie A. Talmage
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

Dear Valerie A. Talmage:

The Officers and Board of The Museum, have discussed your letter concerning "consideration of the Building by the State Review Board for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places".

It is the consensus opinion that the Building not be considered, unless it is the majority's wish of the entire district, in which case we would be agreeable.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Codin
Kenneth Codin Treasurer

Acknowledged this 2nd May, 1985
Simon Galtman
Notary Public - 9/19/86
Commonwealth of Massachusetts