

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA. 02108

Form numbers in this area #1, 2, 153, 154, 156, 201, 202, 203, 203, 205, 206, 216, 196	Area letter A
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Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form

Photo number 103:32 104:1A, 0A,
105:4, 105:5, 105:15,
101:17

Town Rehoboth

Name of area (if any) Rehoboth Village H.D.

Bay State Rd + Locust ave.

General date or period ca. 1700 - Present

Sketch map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient)

See attached.



Recorded by V. H. Adams

Organization Rehoboth Historical Comm.

Date November 1981

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Describe physical setting, general character, and architecturally significant structures).

See attached.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Explain development of area, what caused it, and how it affected community; be specific).

See attached.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Rehoboth	Form No: Area A
Property Name: Rehoboth Village	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Early settlers were drawn to Rehoboth Village by the power source provided by a considerable drop in the Palmer River. At this fall line, a number of diverse milling enterprises operated for approximately two hundred years from 1700 to 1900. Samuel Bliss set up the Bliss gristmill near the site of "Shady Bend" (#204) prior to 1702/1703 when this part of town was formally divided. The mill was in operation until 1881. There was also a sawmill across the river throughout the 1700s. Bay State Road at the Village and Locust Street were laid out and accepted by the proprietors of Rehoboth in 1723.

During the Revolution, the gristmill and one-third of the sawmill were owned by Eleazer Bliss, grandson of the founder. Near the end of the Revolution, Thomas Carpenter III (associated with #152) bought both mills and a nearby blacksmith shop. In the early 1800s, he and his son erected the first cotton mill in the Village near these earlier mills. During the 18th century, the Bliss family also operated a slaughterhouse and tannery on Locust Street (south of district) and a coopershop stood near the corner of Locust Street and Bay State Road. There were also several manufacturing concerns located east of the Village Area A into the 19th century.

The one hundred years from ca.1750 to ca.1850 were the most active in growth and industry for the Village and the town of Rehoboth. The first post office in the town of Rehoboth was officially opened in the Village when Jonathan Wheaton of Locust Street (#154) was appointed postmaster in 1828. It alternated between this and three other buildings, two of which remained (#201, #204) until 1909. The present office buildings has been in use since that time. The need for a locus of exchange, especially for items brought into Rehoboth from elsewhere, was fulfilled by a series of general stores operating in the Village from the early 18th to mid 20th century. Three buildings once used as stores still stand (#154, #201, #204). Town meetings were held at several sites in and around the Village, including Goff Memorial Hall, up until 1952.

In 1833, large-scale commercial milling was introduced into the Village when two brothers, Darius and Nelson Goff, purchased and consolidated two existing mills. The produced cotton batting using an experimental process which they were able to patent in 1846. Local residents and experienced agents from outside Rehoboth were employed. A major fire at the mill, and Darius' ambitions, eventually led to the sale of the company to E. A. Brown in 1846. The business had uneven success and was dissolved in 1868; and , the buildings were torn down in 1898 to make room for an electric trolley line. After the sale, Darius Goff soon moved to Pawtucket where he continued to experiment in several areas of textile-related busenesses.

By 1891, the year of his death, he was recognized nationally as an innovator and pioneer in the textile industry and equated to Samuel Slater. This branch of the Goff family has played a particularly active role in the development of Rehoboth Village and the entire town. They had owned land here since 1714 and operated an inn at the old homestead. It was demolished in 1885 when the land where it stood was donated to the newly formed Rehoboth Antiquarian Society for construction of the first Goff Memorial Hall. George Nelson Goff, sone of Nelson Goff, served as

(Continued)

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Continued) Page 2

state senator from the area. Both father and son lived in the Village in the house immediately each of Goff Memorial Hall (#156).

Commercial activities, however, have not been solely industrial in Rehoboth Village. Agriculture, while less well documented, has always been an important and enduring economic base for the town and played a part in the history of the Village as well. In the past, small and large farms surrounded the Village. Construction of a new Congregational Church (#2) in 1839 on the site of a farmyard caused a group of opposing parishoners to leave the church.

By the end of the 19th century, only one major farm was present in the immediate vicinity. This was a dairy and produce farm owned and operated by the Horton family up to 1965 (#153). Their vegetables and milk went to markets in the surrounding cities and towns of Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Beginning in the early 20th century, the milk went to Broadway Dairy in East Providence, Rhode Island. At one time, Mr. W. C. Viall of that dairy came daily to the Village with a four-horse team to meet the farmers and collect milk. Members of the Horton family also ran a general store (#201) for about fifty years. The electric trolley which ran through the Village around the turn of the century unloaded fertilizer and other farm supplies here. As a place where people and goods were gathered together, the Village served an important function in maintaining economic personal exchange networks for the agrarian population of Rehoboth.

Recognition of and concern for the town's history inspired the formation of the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society. The idea was spawned and brought to fruition in Rehoboth Village. Under the sponsorship of Reverend George Tilton, pastor of the Village Congregational Church, artifacts were collected from townspeople for display; and, money collected to finance a building. Goff Memorial Hall, constructed in 1886 on land given by the Goff family, housed this diverse collection. The Honorable Thomas W. Bicknell, a prominent Rhode Island author and educator, who taught school in Rehoboth Village from 1853 to 1857, provided volumes to create a town library, Blanding Library, in honor of his wife's family, one of the oldest in Rehoboth. The present structure, completed and dedicated in 1915 to replace the original one which was destroyed by fire, has been the Congregational Church Parish House since 1951. The library is still housed there, but the constantly growing Antiquarian Society collections have been recently relocated in the new Carpenter Museum on Locust Street (not included in district).

The route of an electric railway line between Providence and Taunton was laid through the Village in 1898. Initially, the tracks were to run parallel to the Providence and Taunton Turnpike (Route 44) across Rehoboth. However, considerable pressure from townspeople, including the influential Senator George N. Goff, eventually resulted in a loop southward into Rehoboth Village. An electric power generator costing \$100,000 and a car barn (not included) were constructed behind Goff Hall. The line provided a means of transport for people and goods until 1927, when, due to financial failure, it was dismantled.

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Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Rehoboth Village is located in the geographic center of the town of Rehoboth. It consists of a loose cluster of visually and historically related mid 18th to 20th century structures on Bay State Road and Locust Street. The initial impetus for settlement here about 1700 was a fall line in the Palmer River. A mill pond and some structural remains still exist as testimony to two hundred years of industry here. The sense of time and place preserved in the Village is enhanced by winding roads, lack of sidewalks, mature plantings and surrounding open fields and woodland.

Architectural style in the village is varied, but its qualities of visual spacing and interconnected history combine to produce a unified and harmonious record of an important aspect of Rehoboth's development as a community and a town. The only building which can securely be dated to the 18th century is #154. It is a "Three-quarter" house, built originally with a large hall on the second story accessible only from a separate entrance. Other contemporary or earlier buildings were either burned or demolished prior to 1900. Two residences, with the most sophisticated architectural detail in the Village, were constructed around 1800 or slightly later (#153, #156), both transitional Federal-Greek Revival in style. The Darius Goff House (#156), a hip roof Federal period house remodelled ca. 1850, contains the most fully developed expression off the Greek Revival style in Rehoboth - a heavy trabeated entrance surround with two columns set in antes.

The mid 19th century is represented by the small vernacular structure known as "Shady Bend" (#204) and four other buildings. These are the Greek Revival Congregational Church (#2) and three small dwellings across Locust Street (#196, #205, #206). The interior of two of these (#205, #206) has been changed. The exterior of one is also altered, while the other was recently encased in aluminum siding. Nevertheless, their basic outlines and role in the overall visual impact of the village remain strong. Bridging the late 19th to early 20th century are five buildings all strikingly different. Three residences stand adjacent to one another on the north side of Bay State Road west of the Palmer River. These are: a vernacular late 19th century building with gable end to the street, built originally as a store (#201); a late Greek Revival house with gable flank to the street, Italianate details and a side ell (#202); and a large blocky Queen Anne "colonial" style house (#203). Goff Memorial Hall (#1) of 1915, designed by the Providence, Rhode Island architectural firm of William R. Walker and Son, is a brick Tudor Revival structure; Rehoboth's most imposing institutional building; and one of a handful of professionally designed buildings. It replaced an earlier frame Queen Anne structure (erected 1885; destroyed by lightning 1911) of similar function.

The remaining building from this period is the post office (#216). Although it has no outstanding architectural characteristics, it merits inclusion for its historic value in the town and its visual role in Rehoboth Village.

Rehoboth Village has changed little since the 19th century. The group of buildings which are today grouped on the banks of the Palmer River represents the kernel of the town of Rehoboth. The spatial arrangement of these structures reflects historic continuum and presents a community image not found elsewhere in Rehoboth.

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HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Continued) Page 3

Settlement and community growth in the town of Rehoboth has always been dispersed. If any single locus in town can be assigned the title of "center," the Village deserves that claim, although today, its appearance might indicate otherwise. The pattern of history into many New England rural areas, which saw considerably more activity in the 18th and 19th centuries than the 20th century, is fully apparent here.

Forming, as a group, a distinguished historical and visual entity which possesses strong associations with the community development of Rehoboth through past residents and events, Rehoboth Village meets criteria A, B and C of the National Register of Historic Places as a district.

Boundary Justification

Rehoboth Village Historic District consists of 13 major structures and encompasses approximately 12 acres. Boundaries generally follow lot lines and were delineated so as to include properties from the 18th through early 20th centuries which establish a strong sense of time and place for the village. This includes some field and woodland, important contributing landscape elements for the district's ability to convey these characteristics.

UTMS

- A: 19/313030/4634450
- B: 19/313030/4634360
- C: 19/313040/4634310
- D: 19/313010/4634230
- E: 19/312870/4634300
- F: 19/313000/4634420

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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

Item number

Page 1 of 4

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Rehoboth Multiple Resource Area
State Massachusetts

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Rehoboth Village Historic District | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>Bruce W. Boyd 6/6/83</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 2. Allen, Elisha, House | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <u>Selma Byers 6/6/83</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 3. Anawan Club Caretaker's House | | Keeper | _____ |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 4. Anawan Club Clubhouse AND CARETAKER'S HOUSE | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | <u>Selma Byers 6/6/83</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 5. Anawan Rock | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | <u>Selma Byers 6/6/83</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 6. Baker House | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | <u>Selma Byers 6/6/83</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 7. Bliss, Abiah, House | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | <u>Selma Byers 6/6/83</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 8. Bliss, Daniel, Homestead | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | <u>Selma Byers 6/6/83</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 9. Bowen, Nathan, House | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | <u>Selma Byers 6/6/83</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 10. Bramble Hill | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | <u>Selma Byers 6/6/83</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Substantive Review

Rehoboth Village Historic District (Rehoboth
MRA)
Bristol County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 4/25/83
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84
Date Due: 5/26/83 - 6/9/83
Action: ACCEPT 6/6/83
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

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

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom. / Criteria ACCEPT / ABC
Reviewer Mr. Davis
Discipline H. P. V.
Date 6/6/83
 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 deteriorated good ruins fair 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

NOT EXPLICITLY ADDRESSED BUT APPEARS TO BE NOT A PROBLEM
~~NO SPECIAL DATE OR LIST OF OLD MAPS; IMPLICATION IS THAT IT IS EARLY 20C~~
~~THIS SO THIS DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE A PROBLEM~~

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- summary paragraph *AT END OF SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT*
- 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

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT 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: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Rehoboth Village ^{H.D.} Area A

163:32

Rehoboth MRA, Ma

Photo 2 of 7



Rehoboth Village Area A

104: ~~1A~~
1A

Rehoboth MRA, No.

Photo 1 of 7



Area A General View

Rehoboth Village Hall
Rehoboth MRT, Ma

105-15

Photo 4 of 7



Area A General View

Rehab Village Hill

Rehab MRA, MA

105-4

Photo 3 of 7



AREA #204

101:17

Rehoboth Village Hall
Rehoboth MPA Mo.

Photo 5 of 7



AREA A #132

Rehoboth Village H.D.

Rehoboth MRA Ma

Photo 6 of 7



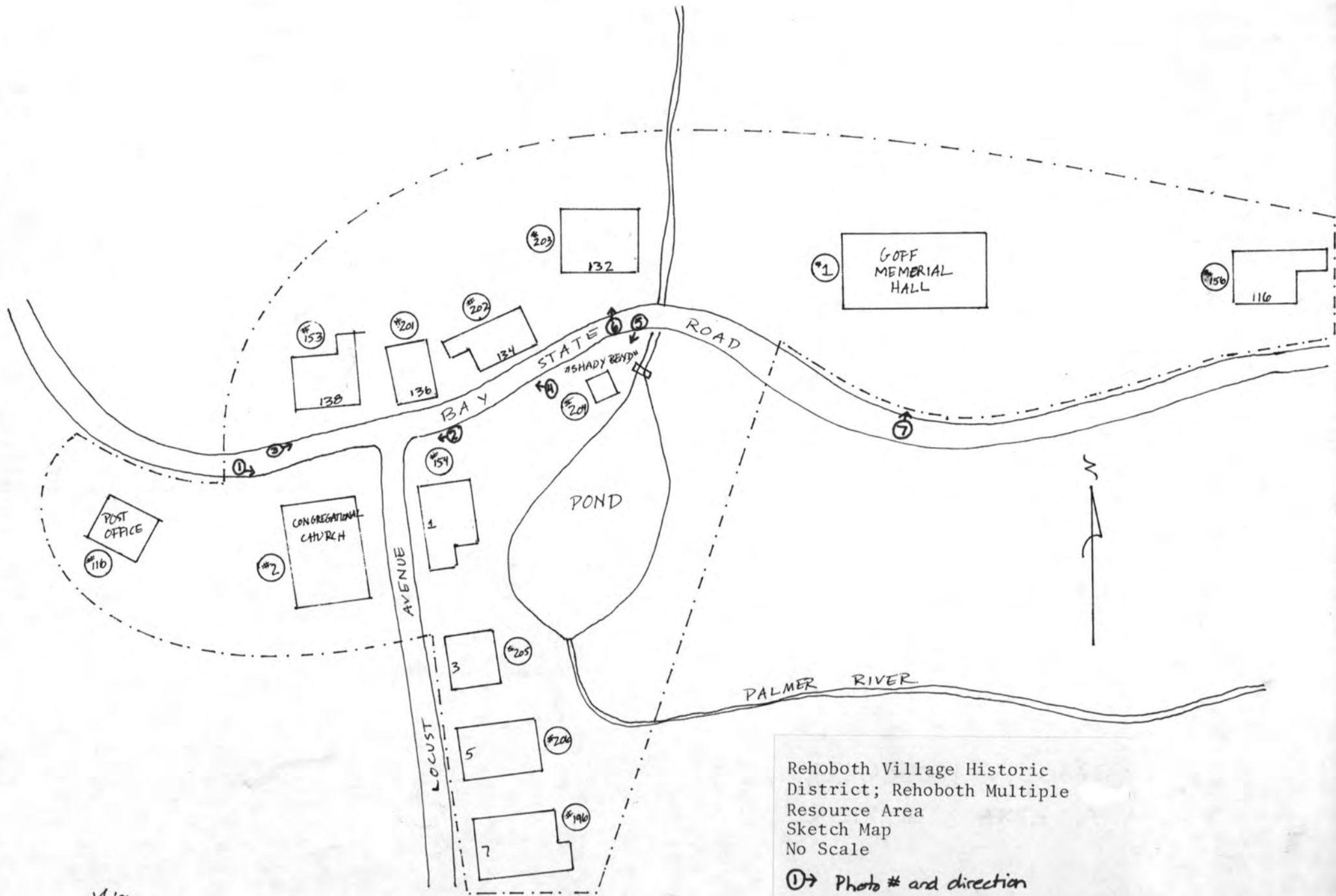
Rehoboth - Village H.P.
Rehoboth Nat, Ma

Golf Memorial Bldg -
In NE 46 - area 36

5A

69.1783 -

Photo # 7 of 7



Rehoboth Village Historic District; Rehoboth Multiple Resource Area
 Sketch Map
 No Scale
 ① → Photo # and direction

K'01



Rehoboth Village Historic District
Town of Rehoboth Property Map
scale 1"=200' 1978

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000292